



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,645

WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE 1998

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Do they think it's all over?

10 PAGES OF SPORT



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The truth about our spin doctors

KEN LIVINGSTONE, COMMENT



Beauty school drop-outs

TAMSIN BLANCHARD, FASHION



Anger as Redwood joins 'carpetbagging' company

JOHN REDWOOD, the Conservative spokesman on trade and industry, was last night at the centre of a row over his role as a director of a company set up to profit from accelerating the process of turning building societies into banks.

Murray Financial is being launched by Ken Murray, an Edinburgh-based financier, specifically to take over a num-

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

ber of small building societies, friendly societies and mutual life assurance companies. The company's shares will start trading on London's Alternative Investment Market (AIM) next Monday.

Murray Financial is the only directorship Mr Redwood holds. He has subscribed to

100,000 shares in the company at 10p each. He will be paid £12,000 a year as a non-executive director.

When asked whether his position as a shadow spokesman, with a portfolio that includes competition policy, conflicted with being director of a company dedicated to profiting from demutualisation, Mr Redwood said: "No, I don't see that

at all. I've always been in favour of wider share ownership."

Last night, there was scepticism as to whether such a "carpetbagging" company would flourish. Adrian Coles, the director-general of the Building Societies Association, which represent the remaining 70-odd societies, said: "I would be surprised if any building society would want to be taken

over by [Murray Financial]."

Kerry Pollard, the Labour MP

for St Albans and spokesman

for the pressure group Save

Our Building Societies, said: "I

think John Redwood should be

the last to be involved in this

kind of thing."

Murray Financial stressed

that all its deals will be "vol-

untary". It will seek to persuade

members of building societies,

for instance, to vote to ditch mu-

thal status in favour of becoming

a bank. Murray Financial

would then take over ownership

of the new institution in ex-

change for company shares.

Instead of a windfall cash

payment, building society

savers and borrowers would get

shares in the new company. Mr

Murray hopes to repeat the

process on a series of building

and friendly societies, and, by

stripping out costs by closing of-

fices, seeks to create a profit-

able company able to give

shareholders high dividends.

Mr Redwood stressed that

all Murray Financial's deals

would be done by agreement

with the members of the soci-

eties concerned.

Alan Davies, the chief execu-

tive of the Nationwide build-

ing society, himself faces a vote

by the society's members on

whether to demutualise. An

outspoken champion of mutu-

ality, he was sceptical of Mur-

ray Financial's prospects. "All

the small mutuals I've spoken

to are very keen to stay small

mutuals. I have to say sounds

a very strange venture. And I

find Mr Redwood's involve-

ment even odder."

Minister vows to overturn school system

BY JUDITH JUDD

Education Editor

SWEEPING CHANGES to the way schools are run will transform pupils' lives by the next century, the Government promised yesterday.

Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, said that 25 education action zones would challenge the status quo by introducing longer school days in Brighton and Newcastle.

Teachers warned, however, that they would resist any changes to their pay and conditions caused by longer working hours.

Zones, which will involve groups of schools in areas where pupils are underachieving, will attract £56m over three years from the taxpayer and £19m from business.

The first 12 zones will start in September and the rest in January. More are expected next September and ministers are hoping that parents will bid to set up new zones where they are unhappy with local schools.

Mr Byers said: "Let there be no doubt that education action zones present a fundamental challenge to the educational status quo, a real threat to the vested interests which have for too long held back our education system."

Household names such as Rolls-Royce, Kellogg's, Tate and Lyle, and American Express are business partners in the zones with local authorities or groups of schools. British Aerospace, for example, will help plan the curriculum in Hull.

Most will be led by local authorities but two, ministers say, will be led by business. Shell International will take the lead in Lambeth, south London, and Comcast, a cable, telephone and television provider in Middlesbrough. The Halifax bank will be a "driving force" in the Calderdale zone.

The 25 successful bids chosen from a total of 60 applications include proposals for: a tailor-made television channel bringing the classroom into

pupils' living rooms in Grimsby.

■ an increase of 50 per cent in school opening hours in Birmingham.

■ investigation of a school year split into four or five terms in Croydon.

■ a longer school day, Saturday classes and breakfast clubs in Hull.

■ work-related lessons for disaffected 14- to 16-year-olds in Brighton and Newcastle.

A quarter of the zones are considering whether to vary teachers' pay and conditions to accommodate longer school days and weekend and holiday working.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said the aim was to transform and modernise schools: "There is no alternative to radical solutions to difficult problems. The traditional solutions are not working in these areas. It is not our intention to return to the education system that we inherited."

All zones will receive £750,000 a year from the Government and £250,000 from business for three years and must set targets to raise standards. Each will involve several secondary schools and up to 15 primaries. They will be run by forums including representatives of local authorities, business, teachers and parents. In the business-led zones, company representatives will chair the forums but no profit-making company will be in control.

Responding for the Tories, education spokesman David Willetts said that zones would be "left in the hands of the very local education authorities that even the Department for Education believes has failed".

He added: "This is yet another example of the Government talking tough rhetoric but the reality is different."

David Hart, of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "If education action zones take off nationally, they will represent the biggest change the education system has seen in decades. They will become the Trojan Horse which could well destroy local education authorities as we know them."

TAPES OF Number 10 Press

briefings were demanded last night by a cross-party select committee, but Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's official spokesman, told MPs that most of them had been wiped.

Mr Campbell said he would discuss with Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary, whether daily summaries of the lobby briefings should be supplied to the committee, chaired by Labour MP Rhodri Morgan.

But he said most of the tapes were re-used and permanent copies were not kept. He is also

BY COLIN BROWN

Chief Political Correspondent

to consider keeping a permanent

taped record of all future

briefings.

The key tape the Tory MPs

on the committee demanded was of his briefing over Tony Blair's alleged intervention on behalf of Rupert Murdoch with the Italian Prime Minister, Romano Prodi. The MPs said he had described the reports as "crap", but the Italian press reported the incident as true.

Under questioning for more

than two hours, most of it friendly, Mr Campbell denied lying to journalists about the Murdoch affair and denied telling journalists that Richard Branson could get a knighthood in two years' time.

The sharpest exchanges with Mr Campbell came from two former Tory political advisers, now MPs, Andrew Tyrie and David Ruffley, who challenged him to produce the tapes of his briefings with journalists of Number 10.

Denying politicising the Whitehall information machine,

he told the MPs that journalists and Tory MPs appeared "obsessed" with his role.

He disclosed that he had discussed with Sir Richard Wilson the possibility of briefing on the defection to Labour last week of the former Tory MP Sir Peter Temple Morris. After taking advice from the Cabinet Secretary that it was a "grey area", he decided not to do so.

But Mr Campbell said he was committed to the Labour Party, and when the election was called, he would resign and work for the Labour Party.

TWO of the most dangerous mobsters in Italy, on trial this week in one of the country's top security courtrooms, threw proceedings into confusion when, under the stern gaze of judge, jury, lawyers and police, they suddenly disappeared.

All Ferdinando Cesarano and Giuseppe Autorino left behind in the prisoners' cage of the bunker courtroom in Salerno were two unused flares. Apparently they had planned to vanish in a puff of smoke - but even that was not needed to help them make their exit. They had instead simply

dropped through a trapdoor in

the floor, slid down a freshly dug tunnel, ran across surrounding fields and were whisked away by a waiting car.

For years, Cesarano and Autorino had been responsible for reinvesting the profits of the Camorra - the Naples-area mafia - in South America. Before that, they had run their hometown extortion racket and coordinated clan killings. Arrested in 1993 and 1994

respectively, the two have received life sentences for murder. By the time the guards pulled themselves out of

their stupor, Cesarano and Autorino were well out of range of police pistols and had calmly disappeared into the balmy southern Italian night.

The escape spelled deep embarrassment for the Justice Minister, Giovanni Flick, following other spectacular escapes last month. "Flick should do everyone a favour," one top defence lawyer said. "He should stop politicking the justice system and go straight home." In other words, do more or less what the missing prisoners had done.

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A teenage prisoner was stabbed to death during cookery lessons at a young offenders' institution.

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William Hague was accused of failing to rid his party of its "sleazy" links to the tobacco industry.

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BUSINESS

Spending on holidays helped Britain's balance of payments diving into the red by £3.2bn

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SPORT

Italy qualified for the second phase of the World Cup finals with a 2-1 win over Austria

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Richard Holbrooke toured Belgrade and other Balkan capitals as a final warning to Serbia to stop the fighting in Kosovo province. Nato intervenes. Page 15**NF killers jailed for racist murder**
Three National Front supporters have been jailed for the murder of a black teenager while putting up election posters in Marseilles in 1995. Page 16

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BNFL 'wins US nuclear business'
British Nuclear Fuels has beaten off the competition to win control of the nuclear side of the US company CBS Westinghouse, according to American sources. Page 17**Selfridges suffers fall in trading**
Sears, the struggling retail group, is pressing ahead with its plans to de-merge Selfridges department store, despite a decline in current trading. Page 18

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Shaun Edwards, the most successful player in the history of rugby league, has played his last game for the Super League champions, Bradford Bulls. Page 27**Maoris maul England again**
Tony Dirose was the only England rugby union player to emerge with credit in a 62-14 mauling at the hands of the New Zealand Maoris in Rotorua. Page 23WEDNESDAY REVIEW
24-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

David McKittrick

To survive, and to prevail over all these opponents, Trimble must make a successful appeal to the Unionist electorate over the heads of those who cling to the old order. Page 4

Anne McElroy

'Page 3 is becoming The Sun's Clause 4. Modernisers inside the paper want to ditch it on the grounds that it looks outdated and puts off female readers.' Page 4

Suzanne Moore

I liked Auberon Waugh's comment, that children of divorced parents should be put to death, as it seems the conclusion of Conservative huffing and puffing. Page 5

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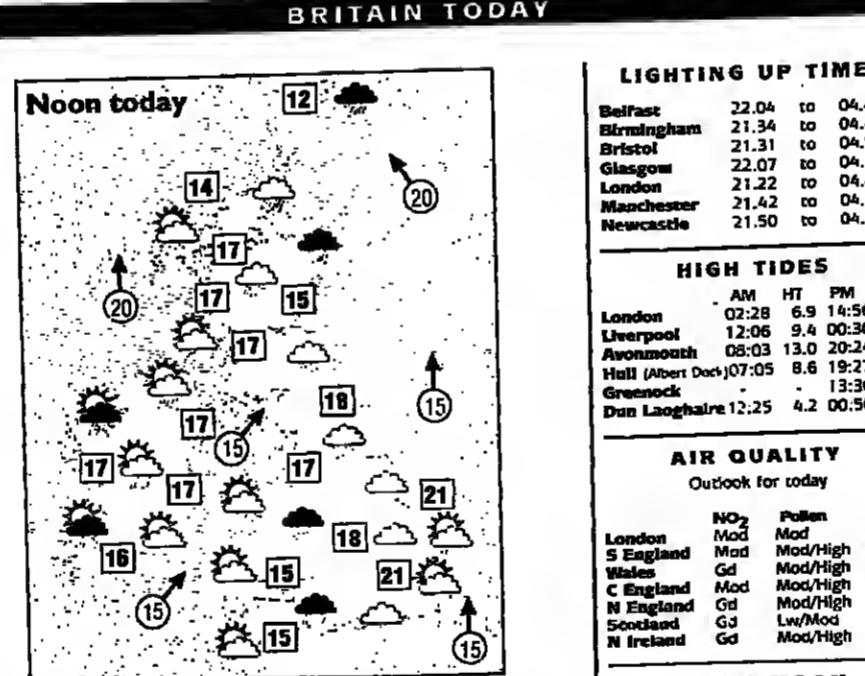
Cryptic crossword, section one, page 32

1,000 teenage offenders have mental illness

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent**NEARLY 1,000 teenagers held in young offenders' institutions are believed to be suffering from psychiatric problems, but only one adolescent psychiatrist is employed by the prison service to help them.****Peter Misch, the only adolescent psychiatrist working for the prison service, said that Feltham YOI, west London, was dealing with 50 young people a year with severe mental illness. "They should be sent to psychiatric hospitals but because of the lack of beds they are actually sent to prison."****He said that young people with psychiatric problems frequently resorted to self-cutting, mutilation and starting fires. "The most common thing is to put nooses around their necks and make hanging attempts," he said.****Sir David's criticisms may fall on deaf ears at the Home Office, where sources indicated that prisons were "well down the priority list". The issue could lead to a confrontation between Sir David and the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, who has****warned Sir David to stick to his prisons remit and not to interfere in matters relating to the Crime and Disorder Bill.****In his annual report, Sir David says that high-security dispersal prisons do not have enough money to conduct programmes of work, training and offending behaviour courses.****Sir David also condemns a lack of preparation for prisoners' release. At Winchester prison he found an armed robber due for release in seven weeks after 17 years inside, mostly isolated from other prisoners. The prison authorities had specifically ordered he should not get any resettlement training.****Training prisons, designed to provide inmates with skills to find jobs on release, suffer from a lack of resources, he says.****Nevertheless, Sir David is pleased the Labour government has moved from the Tories' "security, security, security" mantra and the service, albeit with limited resources, is allowed to make greater efforts at rehabilitation.**

Prisoner, 18, stabbed during cookery class

BY IAN BURRELL

A PRISONER was stabbed on his 18th birthday during a cookery lesson yesterday at a young offenders' institution.**Alan Averill suffered a chest wound during an incident at Stoke Heath Young Offenders' Institution near Market Drayton, Shropshire. He was admitted to hospital, but died later.****A Prison Service spokesman said another prisoner had been put into segregation because of the stabbing and police were investigating the incident.****"Mr Averill was in a cookery lesson when he was found to have suffered a chest wound."****"It is understood that some form of weapon was used to cause that injury," the spokesman said.****Nick Flynn, of the Prison Reform Trust, said the tragedy added to a picture of growing levels of violence being experienced by young prisoners.****"The Chief Inspector of Prisons has identified bullying and violence as major issues to be dealt with at all YOIs and the fact that somebody has now died at one perhaps shows that the problems are worse than the chief inspector initially envisaged."****A record 70 prisoners took their own lives in prisons last year, but homicides remain comparatively rare, at a rate of around one a year.****■ Approximately 20,000 television sets are to be ordered for cells over the next three to five years, Joyce Quin, the prisons minister, disclosed in a Commons written reply last night.**

Blair
prefers
airport
rail link
to Tube

THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 24 June 1998

جذب من الأصل

HOME NEWS/3

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Alistair Campbell's appearance at an MPs' committee yesterday was a press event in itself

The media man who is the message...

BY DONALD MACINTYRE

WHEN SIR Richard Wilson, as Cabinet Secretary the most powerful civil servant in Whitehall, appears before a Commons Select Committee for the first time, it is barely noticed. When Alistair Campbell appears before the same committee, as he did last night it is such a big story that the BBC Today programme does three separate items on it in advance.

All of which Mr Campbell would regard as proving what he frequently and acerbically says in private - that the media is more obsessed with itself than with almost anything else - including the inner workings of government. He may have a point.

He is, nevertheless, the subject which not just the press but the Select Committee is really interested in - with Rhodri Morgan, the committee chairman, solemnly treating the issue of the tapes of Mr Campbell's on-the-record briefings as if they were something out of Watergate. What they are really examining is his power and how he exercises it.

Mr Campbell can dump on journalists who cross him. He has been known to be downright abusive to and about the BBC. He has huge charm and wit - but he can occasionally lose his temper.

As one experienced political editor who deeply admires his skill puts it: "He's like the little girl in the rhyme. When he's good, he's very very good. But when he's bad, he's horrid."

Implicit in both the awe, and the criticism, of Campbell is the fanciful notion that it is his own power he is exercising rather than that of his boss, Tony Blair, we are supposed to infer, would be quite happy - say - for Harriet Harman and Frank Field to thrash out their differences in public.

Don't believe a word of it: True, as one (but only one) of Blair's closest friends and confidantes he has real influence; he will, for example be among the select few consulted on next month's reshuffle. But the authority he exercises in Whitehall is not his own but the Prime Minister's.

Blair, in other words, may seem like a nice, laid-back kind of guy. But that's possible because Alistair Campbell, with Blair's full approval, is sometimes just the opposite.

And to understand the limits of Campbell's alleged omnipotence, consider his famously old Labour views on education. He was personally aggrieved by Harriet Harman's decision to send a son to grammar school. He would probably ideally like grammar schools



What the select committee are really interested in is Campbell's power and how he exercises it

John Voss

and public schools to be abolished. But if he said so he would be sacked within minutes. If John Prescott said so, it would cause a huge public debate on the future of education policy; but having a base which is not exclusively dependent on Blair, he would be

highly unlikely to lose his job. It's true that before the local elections, Richard Wilson warned Campbell, as permanent secretaries throughout Whitehall warned their departmental press officers, not to use their jobs to score party political points. It's also true

that Tony Blair was being more than a little cavalier when, defending him in the Commons, he commented approvingly that one reason he was under attack was that "he does an effective job attacking the Conservative Party."

That was indeed one of his

jobs in opposition, but it's not what the taxpayers have been forking out for his £27,000 salary for since the election. But he appears to know that now. Last week he consulted Wilson on whether he was within the rules to brief on Peter Temple Morris's defection to Labour,

McVicar accused him of using this aggressive behaviour to intimidate the testers.

"I am an aggressive athlete by trade" replied Christie. "I am open to outbursts. I need to be aggressive to run the 100 metres. That's just how it is."

McVicar also accused him of faking emotional outbursts in court, particularly on the first day when Christie broke down in tears and the court had to be adjourned.

"You play to win and will cut any corner to win, and if you thought you could take performance enhancing drugs and get away with it you would," said McVicar. "You would and you have, because modern elite athletes offer an abundance of scope for negating the test by which drugs in sport are regulated," he added.

The case continues.

On message and off message ...

Alastair likes...
Bags pipes. Campbell was taught to play them by his father, a Scottish vet, and at one time he earned extra cash by husking. "The French are much nicer to buskers than the British," he once said, "and they like pipe music."

Bernard Ingham, Margaret Thatcher's press officer: "It would be absolutely preposterous of me to assume

I'm going to do Bernard Ingham's job. But if I can do for Tony in opposition what Bernard did for Maggie in office, I would do pretty well," he said after he was appointed.

Burnley Football Club: When Campbell held a party at the Reform Club to celebrate his appointment as Blair's press secretary, the chairman and manager of Burnley FC were invited, as well as Neil Kinnock and James Callaghan.

Alastair doesn't like...
Alcohol. As a young reporter Campbell drank heavily but gave up after a breakdown. He once said that on a not untypical day he consumed 15 pints of beer, half a bottle of Scotch and four bottles of wine with David Mellor over lunch.

Pornography: When Edwina Currie put the parliamentary panto on the front of her smutty novel, he said she

should be had up for "bringing the game into disrepute".

Fists (occasionally). Campbell famously hit the political editor of the *Guardian*, Michael White, on the day Robert Maxwell died. At the time he worked for the *Daily Mirror*. "Mike kept repeating his joke, 'now we know why he's called Captain Bob-bob-bob'. Eventually, I saw a blue mist and lashed out."

Wit and wisdom

"Arrogant and over-stuffed."
- On the BBC

"One of the most tedious, silly pieces of television... I thought it was pathetic."

- On the BBC's "Panorama" about spin-doctors

"Psychologically flawed."

- Reportedly on Gordon Brown

"It's balls that the Prime Minister 'intervened' over

some deal with Murdoch. That's C-R-A-P."

- On reports of Mr Blair's phone conversation with the Italian Prime Minister about Rupert Murdoch's bid for an Italian TV station

"There is one reason why the Tories attack the Press spokesman - he does an effective job attacking the Conservative Party."

- Tony Blair on Alistair Campbell

Christie threatened drug testers

BY JOHN DAVISON

his distinguished career McVicar who is defending himself, quoted from a series of reports from Sports Council testers, known as independent Sampling Officials (ISO), over Christie's attitude to drug testing.

In one incident in 1992 Christie had gone "ballistic" said McVicar, when testers paid a late night call to his training camp. An official report later described this as: "The most serious abuse ever experienced and reported by an ISO".

A doctor's report from an incident in Gateshead in 1990

described how Christie had become "excessively excited and agitated" in the doping control room, complaining about being picked on and denigrating the whole testing process. The doctor had justified the regime by saying that he suspected all athletes of being drug takers.

"He finished by threatening me with physical violence," said the doctor's report.

When this was put to Christie yesterday he replied: "Yes, I did indeed. I believe I could have threatened him."

At an indoor meeting in 1991, when he was Great Britain team captain, Christie was said to have objected "very vocally" after being asked to give a test

after a semi-final race, describing the event as "pox" and insulting other athletes present. The ISO on this occasion contrasted this "overly aggressive response" to Christie's public statements in favour of drugs testing.

At another Gateshead meeting in 1993 he called a woman tester "a shit" for not allowing him to take a jog after a race when he was required to give a urine test. He had suggested taking a chaperone to watch him as he said he had done on other occasions.

"I think I did call her a shit" Christie told the court. "I think she is a shit because she wouldn't allow me to warm

down". McVicar accused him of using this aggressive behaviour to intimidate the testers.

"I am an aggressive athlete by trade" replied Christie. "I am open to outbursts. I need to be aggressive to run the 100 metres. That's just how it is."

McVicar also accused him of faking emotional outbursts in court, particularly on the first day when Christie broke down in tears and the court had to be adjourned.

"You play to win and will cut any corner to win, and if you thought you could take performance enhancing drugs and get away with it you would," said McVicar. "You would and you have, because modern elite athletes offer an abundance of scope for negating the test by which drugs in sport are regulated," he added.

The case continues.

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Canon

Divorce 'does not damage' most children

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

THE COST OF A BROKEN HOME

Studies on divorce and children over the past three decades have seen a range of differing views. ■ In 1993, the National Child Development Study of 11,000 children born in 1958 concluded that children who lost a parent through death did not under-perform in the same way as the children of divorce. ■ In 1994 a Exeter University study of 152 children found children from broken families had worse health, suffered psychological problems, were more likely to need extra school help at school, had more trouble socialising and suffered low self-esteem. ■ In April 1997 a Queen's University of Belfast study of 37 children said marriage breakdown took a heavy toll on the physical and emotional well-being of teenagers because of the stresses of changing house, school and domestic arrangements. ■ In October 1997, a British Psychological Society study of 400 children in South Wales said family break-up turns teenage boys towards aggression, delinquency and crime. The report said teenage boys had more trouble coming to terms with divorce or separation. ■ Later in 1998, a combined study of more than 15,000 children born between 1945-70 whose parents separated found that they suffered an educational disadvantage, were more likely to attend special schools and had problems with schoolwork.

life – and these are often twice as common as they are among children whose parents have stayed together.

Factors which put children of separated families at increased risk include those who live in poor households, leave school without qualifications, leave home while young and have children as a teenager.

Family conflict, whether before, during or after separation, is particularly stressful for children who may respond by becoming anxious, aggressive or withdrawn. "Children find conflict difficult and distressing," said Dr Prior. "Our message to parents is to keep children away from it. Children can observe conflict and be drawn down into it. One of the most damaging things is when parents use children as go-betweens. We would say that kind of conflict."

Julia Cole of Relate said that children could recover from divorce if it was settled amicably and if parents continued to act with sympathy and understanding. "But that's an awful lot of ifs," she added. "Confidential divorce or separation can cause tremendous damage where parents argue or use children as pawns in their games. There is considerable evidence to show children of divorced parents do less well at school and are more likely to get into trouble with the police or grow up and become divorcees themselves," Ms Cole added.

Jonathan Bartley, general secretary for the Movement for Christian Democracy, said: "The report underlines that marriage is the key to family life and divorce is a far bigger problem than was previously thought. More liberal attitudes have said that divorce is benign, but that is clearly not the case. And we still don't know the long term implications of divorce."

The report concludes that children and parents should have access to professional support at the time of separation. Help in parents coping with distress will make it easier for them to help their children. GPs, teachers and solicitors should be offered information and training to make it easier for them to advise families or guide them towards more specialist help.

Dr Bryan Rodgers of the Australian National University, Canberra, said: "One of the messages is that if children are to be protected against the kind of disadvantages identified by research, then they and their parents will need better information and support, before, during and after separation."

Pearson said it had decided to put the group up for sale after receiving a number of offers for the group. Marjorie Scardino, Pearson's chief executive, said: "We have decided that this is a good time to test whether Tussauds might be even more valuable to a new owner. They will have to offer a good price to convince us that it is." Analysts said the business could fetch more than £300m.

Pearson took over Madame Tussauds in 1978. Despite com-



Madame Tussaud's waxworks in London, one of the high-profile tourist attractions that went on sale yesterday

Neville Elder

House of wax up for grabs in sell-off of top tourist spots

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

THE FAMOUS London waxworks, Madame Tussaud's, was put on the block yesterday in an auction of tourist attractions that includes the London Planetarium and Alton Towers.

The Tussauds group, which runs the sites, was yesterday put up for sale by Pearson, the media group whose interests range from the *Financial Times* to *Baywatch*.

Pearson said it had decided

to put the group up for sale after receiving a number of offers for the group. Marjorie Scardino, Pearson's chief executive, said:

"We have decided that this is a good time to test whether Tussauds might be even more valuable to a new owner. They will have to offer a good price to convince us that it is." Analysts said the business could fetch more than £300m.

Pearson took over Madame Tussauds in 1978. Despite com-

petitors from other London venues, the prospect of seeing film stars, politicians and leading sportsmen and women recreated in wax has continued to pull in visitors from all over the world. Last year, Madame Tussauds was London's top tourist attraction, with 2.8 million visitors.

Apart from the London branch, there is a smaller version of the waxworks in Amsterdam and Tussauds is also planning to open new outlets in New York and Las Vegas.

Alton Towers, in the East Midlands, which Pearson bought in 1990, the world's first vertical roller coaster. Visitors to the park can also enjoy an ice show that features Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit.

Tussauds also runs the Lon-

don Planetarium, which is next door to Madame Tussauds's on London's Marylebone Road, and the Rock Circus complex in Piccadilly. Other theme parks include Chessington World of Adventures, and Warwick Castle, a historical museum that hosts medieval battles.

Earlier this month, Tussauds agreed to buy the Thorpe Park complex in Surrey, and just yesterday it sold its 40 per cent shareholding in the Port Aventura theme park outside Barcelona for £58m. All in all, the Tussauds ventures attracted 12.9 million visitors last year and made a profit of £22.3m.

Analysts reckon the group

could attract a number of high-profile buyers. Time Warner, the US media giant, might be interested, as might Universal, the Hollywood cinema group.

In Britain, First Leisure, the

nightclub and wine bar opera-

WAX FACTS

1. Some 2400bs of wax have been used in the 365 figures.
2. Sculptors require more than 150 measurements of a subject's face and head to create a life-like portrait.
3. About 500 million people have visited the attraction.
4. It takes six months and costs about £20,000 to make a figure.
5. The building survived a fire in 1925, an earthquake in 1931 and some of the worst bombing of the Blitz in 1940.
6. Only real human hair is used on figures.
7. Joanna Lumley is the most touched waxwork.
8. The most photographed figures are those of Diana, Princess of Wales, and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Identity swap trial is told of daughter's suicide theory

BY KEITH NUTBALL

THE ENGLISHMAN who traded his identity for a new life in Canada only to drown on his return to the UK could have committed suicide, said a key witness at a trial into his alleged murder.

Sheena Walker, 22, daughter of the accused Albert Walker, told the jury that the dead man Ronald Platt had been depressed prior to his body being dredged from the sea off Torquay by a fishing boat. She admitted telling police investigating the case that Mr Platt could have committed suicide.

She told the jury: "He was so disappointed at being back in this country. He was depressed

with the corpse if he alerted the authorities.

John Copik, skipper of the Malkerri, said: "I asked my son what we should do with the body. I said we could drop him back into the sea and forget about it or we could bring him in. My son said we should bring him in."

Mr Copik also admitted giving away a key piece of evidence in the investigation – an anchor, which the prosecution alleged was used to pin Mr Platt to the seabed.

The anchor had been trolleyed up in the net with the body, but the fisherman gave it to a colleague Derek Mered-

ith on the Brixham quayside after mooring that day. "He said it would be handy for his speedboat," said Mr Copik.

Later Meredith's partner took the anchor to a car boot sale, but it was not sold and was later recovered by police.

Albert Walker, 52, from Woodham Walter, Essex, had assumed Mr Platt's identity to escape financial and marital problems in his own country, it has been claimed.

He befriended looter Mr Platt, 51, and partner Elaine Boyes and gave them air tickets to make a new life in Canada in 1993.

When Platt returned to

Britain in 1995 after failing to make a go of things in his new country, Walker killed him, the Crown has alleged.

Professor Campbell, a medical biochemist, is a partner in Prolume, which this week

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

demonstrated foods incorporating flavourless "bioluminescent" chemicals. Those can be added to edible substances, having already been tested for toxicity, said Gene Finley, the company president: "We've done one- to three-month toxicology studies in rodents and it seems to be safe," he said.

The Prolume system combines enzymes made naturally by deep-sea animals which have to generate their own light because sunlight cannot penetrate far enough under the sea. The Prolume team has isolated the animals' genes which produce those light-generating chemicals.

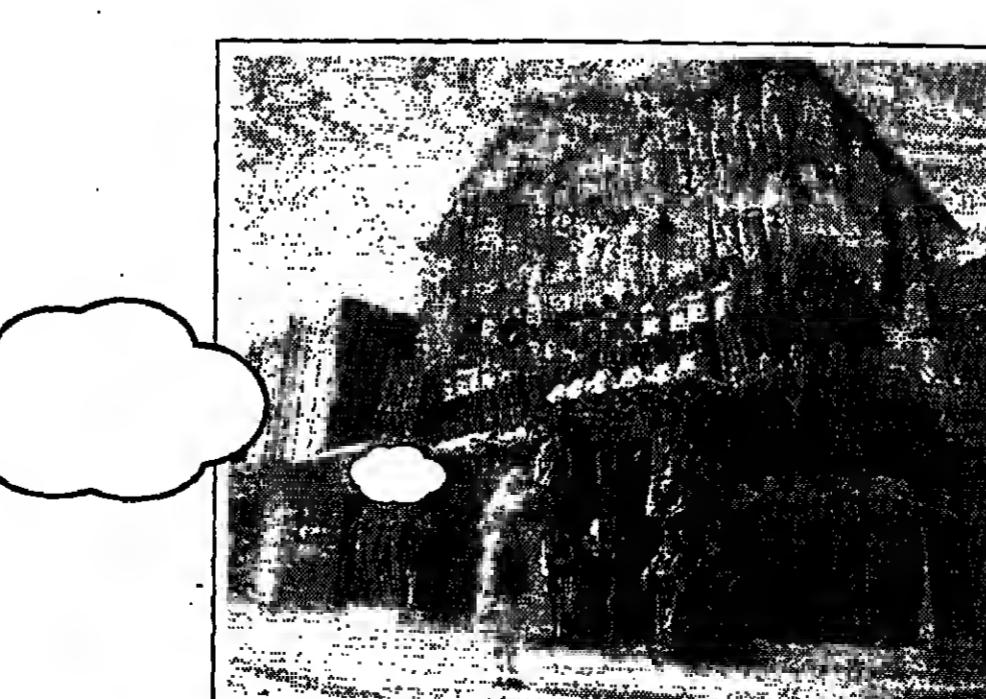
Professor Campbell said:

"For a cake or drink, you would add a chemical to make it luminous, and that would last for some minutes – perhaps up to half an hour. You would need to dim the lights to see it – but it could be ideal for birthday cakes."

A cancer detection system is still some years off, but Professor Campbell reckons that success in the consumer market for Prolume could help fund such important medical uses.

Anyone worried that food which goes in luminous might emerge the same way has no cause for concern, said Professor Campbell. "The active proteins would get degraded during digestion, like any other," he said. "Though I suppose we would have to investigate that."

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Police bias against pregnant officers

SOME OF the country's most senior women police officers have spoken out about sexist and discriminatory treatment by male colleagues, particularly against female officers with children.

The officers, including one of the country's two women chief constables, reveal that some female colleagues keep their pregnancy a secret from their promotion boards for fear of their careers being blighted.

They also disclose that some male officers have told them that they should not be working mothers.

The comments come as a growing number of women officers are taking legal action against their forces for sexual discrimination and harassment.

At the same time, there are a record number of women being appointed to the most senior jobs, although only two of the 51 forces in Britain are run by a woman. There are 10 women among the 230 most senior police ranks in Britain.

Elizabeth Neville, who was appointed the Chief Constable of Wiltshire last year, told *Policing Today* magazine that on her first day back to work as an inspector after giving birth to her first child in 1984, her chief superintendent said: "I think what you're doing is wrong, [but] I suppose it's none of my business."

After Mrs Neville made it

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

clear it wasn't, he agreed not to mention it again. A year later, she approached her promotion board for the job of chief inspector, but did not declare she was pregnant for fear that it would be used against her. After being promoted she told the chairman of the board who said: "You've taken someone else's place."

She added: "Some senior officers were openly unhappy about me having young children at home. The management of pregnancy wasn't tackled within the organisation."

She said that while the situation has improved there is still a lack of confidence among pregnant officers to declare their pregnancy. She gave the example of a sergeant who last year kept her pregnancy a secret for fear it might affect her promotion chances.

"Although there have been extensive policy changes, there still is not the confidence of the staff in the objectivity of its implementation," she said.

Commander Suzanna Becks of the Metropolitan Police, also speaking to the magazine, said she experienced similar attitudes when she was a chief inspector.

"Certain individuals were open about their prejudice against me working



Judy Davison: Why so few women in armed sections?

and having children," she said.

Acting Assistant Commissioner Judy Davison of the City of London Police believes research is needed to examine why so few women work in the traffic or armed response sections.

"Family responsibilities, encouragement, personal choice and childcare may all be inhibiting factors," she said.

On the more general issue of sexist attitudes in the police Mrs Neville said she has encountered few problems since becoming a chief officer, except some people who have not met her before "often mistake me for the wife of the chief constable."

Cdr Davison said she has had to suffer comment in the past such as "even though she

is a woman..." and has been "cold shoulderered" by some male colleagues at meetings when she gave them instructions.

While praising her immediate colleagues she was critical of some of the most senior police ranks who "still do not adhere to fair treatment principles and have used gender specific language and shown bad behaviour".

On a more positive side, Assistant Chief Constable Maria Wallis, of Sussex Police, said she had many positive experiences during her career Commander Carole Howlett of the Metropolitan Police, also argued that developments such as a more objective selection process had been among recent improvements made to the Police Service.

The issue of sexism in the police was highlighted in a 1995 Inspectorate of Constabulary report which stated that discriminatory language and behaviour still continues and there was a "perceived lack of top level commitment to equal opportunities".

Earlier this year, the Inspectorate, in one of its most damning reports in recent times, severely criticised the treatment of women officers at the North Yorkshire force, whose chief constable was forced to resign in January following his handling of a sexual harassment case.



Elizabeth Neville with her children. She did not tell promotion board of her pregnancy Northampton Newspapers

English fans 'show they are true football lovers'

THEY WERE busy clearing up the streets in Toulouse yesterday morning. Thankfully, it was not broken bottles and broken heads they were sweeping up, but damaged fruit and vegetables from the street market in the Boulevard de Strasbourg. Life is getting back to normal, and despite a few days when the English were in town, Toulouse has escaped the violence suffered by Marseilles.

The local newspaper, sounding hugely relieved, reported: "The magnificent English fans showed

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
in Toulouse

last night they are true lovers of football."

The next test, in the northern town of Lens, is on Friday. French military police have already stepped up security, although a spokesman said the English did not appear to have the same "nasty streak" as the Germans who rioted in the city on Sunday. But he said of the English: "We do not know whether the sup-

porters will behave as they did at Marseilles or Toulouse."

His comments came as an unnamed 17-year-old German thus described how a French gendarme was kicked and battered with a beer bottle and a rifle butt. He remains in a deep coma and may be handicapped for life. He is the worst victim so far of the violence which has marred this World Cup. One of his attackers was quoted in one of Germany's biggest newspapers, Bild, yesterday, gloating about

the violence in which the officer was hurt. "Anybody who wasn't German got thumped," he said as he described how 50 thugs cornered just three policemen.

In contrast, England's match in Toulouse passed with relatively few incidents. James Rawlinson, the British Consul General in South-West France, said he believed there were four key reasons why Toulouse suffered only minor trouble.

"The Prefect, Alain Bidou, (the

overseeing law and order) decided that bars should shut at 11pm, that they should serve beer in plastic glasses and that garages and shops should not sell alcohol after 11pm."

The decision made late-night Toulouse a virtual ghost town. Both on Sunday night and after Monday night's match, there were thousands of (largely sober) England supporters milling around but with nowhere to go. Not even McDonald's was open. It meant that people had nothing to do other than go the cen-

tral square and sing. As most of them didn't know any Romanian victory songs, they soon got pretty bored and went home after an hour.

The second reason was the approach of the police. Police in Toulouse were deployed to be high-profile but discreet. It meant you might not see any police for 20 minutes and than 10 truck loads of riot officers would drive past as if to remind people they were there.

Another factor was the differences between Toulouse and Marseilles,

said Mr Rawlinson. Toulouse is prosperous, calm, Anglophilic and rugby-loving while Marseilles is a melting pot of cultures, suffers from high crime and high unemployment and has a large North African population who feel aggrieved at the way they are treated by the authorities.

Many observers agree the final reason relates to those "magnificent English fans", the real fans who did not want to be tarred with the same brush as those who caused the trouble in Marseilles.

World Cup – ITV and BBC go for goal

BY PAUL McCANN
Media Editor

NEARLY 22 million people watched the last 10 minutes of England's defeat at the hands of Romania on Monday night, giving ITV the best rating so far in the World Cup Finals. As many as 8 million more may have watched in pubs and clubs.

A surge of electricity demand big enough to power Manchester followed the game and there was a 50 per cent increase in the demand for water as the nation filled kettles and flushed lavatories.

But despite the impressive ratings, few are attributing its success to the quality of its commentary and punditry teams.

A survey running on ITV's own Teletext service yesterday proved to be a bit of an own goal. It showed that 86 per cent of respondents believe that the BBC's line up, led by Des Lynam, is better than Bob Wilson's ITV team.

"ITV had been closing the professionalism gap until England v Romania," says TV writer Stan Hey, who has watched all 32 games so far. "But then their showbusiness instincts came out and they had embarrassing segments from Romania about vampires and haunted castles. ITV even had to look like the cast of *Coronation Street* wishing the team well."

Frank Lampard, the West Ham midfielder, believes the BBC is better than ITV, but for more presentational reasons: "My mum really likes David Ginola. A lot of players take the mickey out of his opinions, but she likes him."

Laurie McMenamy, who appeared as a TV pundit five World Cup Finals, refused to be

SO WHO WON?

BBC	ITV
Team Captain: Des Lynam	Team Captain: Bob Wilson
Score: 10 out of 10	Score: 3 out of 10
So smooth he can make money parodying his iconic status in adverts. Like an avuncular uncle in charge of mildly cheeky banter, he perfectly pitched questions and opinions to his team of pundits like a midfield supremo in the Hoddle mould.	His comments came as an unnamed 17-year-old German thus described how a French gendarme was kicked and battered with a beer bottle and a rifle butt. He remains in a deep coma and may be handicapped for life. He is the worst victim so far of the violence which has marred this World Cup. One of his attackers was quoted in one of Germany's biggest newspapers, Bild, yesterday, gloating about
Intelligent ex-player: Alan Hansen	Intelligent-looking player: Barry Venison
Score: 7 out of 10	Score: 4 out of 10
Good head for strategy and spotting the key moves, scrubs up well for the camera, but unconvincing by his smugness.	Looks the part but has a bad case of the footballer's condition. Not as bad as David Ginola, but as a footballing client he doesn't want to be hit. Is never supplied with a decent cross by Captain Wilson so cannot raise his game.
Man of the people: Ally McCoist	Man of the people: Terry Venables
Score: 9 out of 10	Score: 8 out of 10
A TV star in the making who will probably move from sport shows to music programmes if his peroxide hair colour is anything to go by. A real pro, he is and yet innocently sincere. His interview with Pelé could have made grown men cry.	Reliable old stagier, although harmed by suspicion that everyone thinks he was England manager. Looks like a cracking joke and can talk tactics in clear English. Seems all the better for not being Don Howe, ITV's man of the people last time around.
Good-looking: David Ginola	Good-looking: Ruud Gullit
Score: 6 out of 10	Score: 8 out of 10
Finding it hard to slice as much as his hair, but it could be the class acts playing around him.	Often seems to be talking straight over the head of the rest of the ITV team, to say nothing of his own. He looks good, sounds good and his belief in classy football is an antidote to the England must-win wave of the rest.
Commentary star: John Motson	Star commentator: Brian Moore
Score: 9 out of 10	Score: 7 out of 10
The fact that this man is a natural is a bit of a let-down. The English, the nation that invented transposing, an anorak's anorak. Motson manages to inject trivias seamlessly into his commentary with a subtle touch.	Assured, confident performance when commenting on England matches. Tries hard, but fails to restrain latent English bias. Prone to Partridge-esque information overload telling us there are seven spare planes to save time during throw-ins.
TOTAL: 41	TOTAL: 30

drawn on his preferred broadcaster but he means the fact that so many of the "experts" are now so young. "It seems that TV is the preferred career for lads just as they come to the end of their playing career. When I first started doing it in 1974 with Bobby Charlton we were all still in the game as managers."

In ratings terms it is impossible to judge which broadcaster is winning because it is the combination of teams, and the kick-off times of games, that is attracting the fans – not the quality of the pundits.

SAVE THE CHILDREN

A Save the Children plane delivering supplies in southern Sudan. Photo: Neil Cooper

SUDAN CHILDREN'S APPEAL

Today in Sudan, the lives of an estimated 1.2 million people are at immediate risk from starvation. Children are suffering terribly. Right now, food is the priority. Save the Children is urging the international community to support the UN in delivering the food that is needed now to save lives.

We have worked alongside the resourceful people of Sudan through many tough times in the past, but civil war and drought mean that the lives of many children depend, for now, on outside help.

Save the Children staff are working round the clock providing immediate assistance and planning ahead for the future, when the present chronic food needs have been met. We are:

- supplying high energy biscuits for children
- distributing fishing equipment, seeds, tools and other basic survival items
- training local mobile teams to create and maintain new water sources

• providing experts to the UN World Food Programme to plan how to get the food to those who need it most

• working closely with other charities active in the region to assist in the delivery of food aid and essential relief items.

We're pressing for peace as the only long term solution to the problems

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Professor Charles Ssali at the Africa Centre in London, with a bottle of his controversial Aids 'cure' pills

Doctor earns rebuke for 'Aids remedy'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

A UGANDAN doctor trained in Britain who is selling a vitamin supplement as a treatment for Aids has been publicly rebuked by the Royal medical college, of which he was a fellow.

Professor Charles Ssali, a former ear, nose and throat surgeon in Scotland who now runs an Aids clinic in Uganda, plans to offer his treatment, called Mariandina, through health-food shops in Britain. He claims to have treated 17,000 patients at his clinic over the past five years and obtained an 80 per cent recovery rate.

He told a meeting at the Africa Centre in London on Monday night that he had patients in Britain who had taken the treatment. "They are friends of mine, they have got Mariandina from me and they are cured. As soon as I have the necessary permits and have made arrangements it will be

available to all those who want it. I will sell it through health-food stores."

Professor Ssali was suspended by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1992 for non-payment of the annual subscription. However, in an unprecedented move, the college last month posted a "Note regarding a Dr Charles Ssali" on its internet website, announcing that he had claimed to have found a cure for Aids and that he had been suspended.

Mariandina is made by Pharmadass, of Greenford, Middlesex, a company supplying vitamins, health food supplements and natural cosmetics to pharmacies and health food stores. It is made exclusively for Professor Ssali to a recipe supplied by him. It comes in three formulations, A, B and J, and costs £50 for a month's supply, four times the average monthly income in Uganda of £14.

The National Drugs Authority in Uganda banned Mariandina last year, arguing that patients were being duped into buying a worthless treatment which left them impoverished and unable to buy food. The ban was lifted after protests from patients and MPs and then reimposed. About £14,000 worth of the pills are currently impounded at Entebbe airport in Uganda.

Professor Ssali is a persuasive speaker and attracted enthusiastic applause from his audience of 100 mostly black Africans in London on Monday night. The treatment, which he describes as an "immune booster", is a combination of vitamins, herbal extracts and micronutrients. He believes it can help Aids in the way that oranges relieved the symptoms of scurvy in the 18th century.

He told the meeting that he was the victim of a conspiracy by the major pharmaceutical companies, who wanted to discredit his discovery in order to protect their own Aids drugs such as AZT and the protease inhibitors, from which they were making large profits.

One woman, who gave her name as Rosalyn, said she had read about Mariandina in the Nation newspaper in London and contacted her father in Zimbabwe to obtain a supply of the drug for her 47-year-old aunt who was seriously ill with suspected Aids. "Within four days she had stopped vomiting and started eating again and from then she gradually got better," she said.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said that if the doctor tried to sell Mariandina as a treatment for Aids in the UK he would be in contravention of the Medicines Act.

"You cannot make medicinal claims for a product without a licence," she said.

Straw moves on paedophile fears

BY MICHAEL CLARKE

one of the places under consideration was Wing Grange," the spokesman said. "No firm decision has yet been made."

Oliver was jailed for the manslaughter of Jason Swift, a teenage runaway. Released from prison last September, he was bailed out of half a dozen towns before asking Sussex police for protection. He spent four months in a south coast police station for his own protection before going to Bleheim House, a private medium secure unit in Milton Keynes, in January.

The Home Office spokesman said that if Oliver is moved to Wing it will only be as a temporary measure.

IN BRIEF

Police searching for missing 13-year-old girl find body in river

POLICE SEARCHING for the missing 13-year-old Claire Hart yesterday found a body in a river near the spot where she was last seen. A Cheshire Police spokeswoman said that the sex and age of the body had not yet been determined and forensic experts were carrying out tests at the scene. Claire disappeared last Thursday while walking to school from her home in the village of Eaton.

Police deny Lawrence 'coaching'

THE METROPOLITAN Police yesterday denied systematically coaching the officers giving evidence to the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. The denial was made after a "script" used by one witness, Sgt Peter Sollie, was obtained by lawyers for the Lawrence family and produced at the inquiry today. Headed "Possible questions you may be asked", the document is colour-coded with red indicating dangerous areas of questioning.

Crusader's psalms sell for £2.7m

A 700-YEAR-OLD illustrated prayer book that has never been seen in public was sold in London yesterday for a record £2.7m. The Burdett Psalter - a 13th-century copy of the Book of Psalms that is thought to have been commissioned by a French crusader in the Holy Land - was bought by an anonymous private collector, who paid almost double the estimated value.

Government tackles NHS violence

A NEW PLAN for tackling violence against NHS staff was launched by the Government yesterday. Under the programme, every NHS Trust has to set up procedures for recording assaults and draw up targets for reducing violence levels. One in seven of all reported incidents in the NHS involve assaults, which are the third most reported cause of injury after falls and needle accidents.

Millennium bug may cripple 999

UP TO A quarter of police forces in England and Wales could suffer serious delays in responding to 999 calls in the year 2000 because of the millennium computer bug, a report by a public spending watchdog warned yesterday. Auditors fear that emergency responses could break down as computer systems fail. Speed cameras, fingerprint systems, files of investigations, surveillance cameras, and police radios could also malfunction.

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.



Children playing at Chestnut Wood School in the London Borough of Lambeth, ranked as the fourth most deprived in Britain

Nicola Kurtz

Lambeth ready for steep learning curve

Ben Russell reports from a new education action zone

THE STATISTICS alone show the scale of the task ahead for teachers in the London Borough of Lambeth's education action zone.

The borough is ranked as the fourth most deprived in Britain, with unemployment running at around 17 per cent. One in 10 girls get pregnant by the age of 19. Nearly a third of the borough's children learn English as a second language. An average of just 28 per cent of school leavers in Lambeth get five or more good GCSE passes, one of the lowest rates in London.

Leaders of the action zone are hoping to make an immediate impact on schools in the borough when their zone opens for business at the beginning of September. But they have decided against radical changes to the school year, or any dramatic alteration to teachers' contracts.

The Lambeth zone brings to-

gether 25 nursery and primary schools and two secondaries: Stockwell Park and Lillian Baylis, one of the schools "named and shamed" last year by David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

The international oil giant, Shell, is putting up £50,000 a year to help fund the project, and one of its senior executives, Clive Mather, will chair its governing forum.

But the zone was drawn up and will be run by Lambeth borough council and a private sector consultancy, the Centre for British Teachers (CBFT), "as equal partners".

CBFT, a registered charity, runs careers services, teacher training, Ofsted inspection teams and a supply teacher agency.

Tim Emmett, principal plan-

ning director at CBFT and co-author of the Lambeth bid, said his company would offer advice on school management and initiatives like after school clubs. "Our role is to provide the consultancy, the leverage and the experience of operating internationally and in other sectors," he said.

CBFT is a charity, but is looking at the potential of the zones to expand its business. "The zone concept has created new market opportunities," Mr Emmett said. "CBFT is interested in new zones in the future."

Mr Emmett said it would be up to schools to decide which initiatives in the zones to take up. Meetings to start finalising details would start next week.

Proposals in Lambeth include extending the school day by providing breakfast on the one hand and after-school homework clubs on the other. Schools will also offer help with English for parents.

see is support and respect for teachers and also to redefine the relationship between the education community and the business community."

Some heads, however, said they knew little about what the zone would mean in practice for their schools. One said: "What people want to know is what it will mean on Monday morning or Friday afternoon. That's not clear."

Mr Emmett said it would be up to schools to decide which initiatives in the zones to take up. Meetings to start finalising details would start next week.

Headteachers and middle managers in schools will have mentors from business, and schools are planning training schemes for those seeking promotion. Schools will run special arts and sports events and set up school councils.

Every secondary school pupil in the zone will be encouraged to take up the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, and pupils will be asked to act as mentors to younger children to help crack down on bullying.

Mr Goddard said: "They are quite simple measures, but they are simple measures parents want and simple measures that teachers want."

In the classroom, the zone

will focus on literacy, numeracy and science in the borough's primary schools. Within five years the local authority wants to see 80 per cent of 11-year-olds achieving national standards for their age in English and 75 per cent of them achieving a similar standard in maths.

Mr Pratt insisted: "But you must have a theory."

Mr Jenkins replied: "I don't have a theory. Of course, it interests me how my daughter was killed. I have not got a theory. I have speculated as to how somebody might have got there, but I don't know ... I am not a detective. I wanted to help the police."

The prosecution alleges that

Mr Jenkins bludgeoned Billie-Jo to death with a tent-peg as she was painting the patio doors of the family home on 15 February last year. He then went on a "pointless" shopping trip with his two older natural daughters Annie and Lottie in order to distance himself from the scene, it is alleged.

Mr Jenkins was also questioned about an incident while Billie-Jo was painting when he showed her how to tie her

with

Not at all."

Jenkins was later asked to read from notes he had made in the days after the murder in order to help himself make a witness statement to police.

Despite earlier telling the court he could not remember how he had got paint on his fleece jacket, in the notes he says he can remember Billie-Jo laughing when he got paint on his jacket as he helped her.

Mr Pratt said: "May I bluntly suggest to you that there was no laughing or humorous incident when Billie-Jo caused you to get paint on your jacket."

Mr Jenkins replied: "I understand what you are saying. I cannot be sure how the paint got on my jacket."

Mr Pratt replied: "May I suggest that when you attacked her, not as you suggest."

Mr Jenkins said emphatically: "And you would be wrong."

The case continues today.

Advertisement Feature

It's worth shopping around for mortgage protection

Protect the roof over your family's head

Mortgage protection is one of Europe's third largest most straightforward and insurance group, they can afford types of life insurance to arrange cover for you from just £25 a month. It's designed to pay off your mortgage if you die – and so protect the roof over your family's head.

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many things to life, it could really pay to shop around before you buy.

For instance, you could take a look at Zurich Municipal's mortgage protection policy. Part

nearly £90 a year if he took out the policy with Zurich Municipal. Over the 18-year period of cover, this certainly adds up to a significant saving.

Graham, from Corsham, Wiltshire, is married to Jane and has a young son Tom. With a busy lifestyle, he found taking out a policy with Zurich Municipal extremely easy. He says: "The person on the end of the phone was very friendly and efficient, and the quote only took a few minutes. I was also very happy to discover I could have a 15% discount because of my job, which means the premium was the cheapest one I found. I would certainly recommend Zurich Municipal to my friends and family."

When Graham Powell, who has a career in the public sector, changed from an endowment to a repayment mortgage, he was required to take out mortgage protection. After receiving a quote from his mortgage lender, Graham decided to phone

Graham to discover that he could save

Female, married, non-smoking public sector employee with 20 year mortgage protection cover

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AGE	£50,000	£75,000
25	£5.15	£6.72
35	£6.55	£8.83
45	£12.21	£17.31

Male, married, non-smoking public sector employee with 20 year mortgage protection cover

SUM ASSURED		
AGE	£50,000	£75,000
25	£7.19	£9.78
35	£8.13	£11.19
45	£17.86	£25.78

Examples shown include public sector discounts. Monthly premiums are dependent on a number of factors and in particular are higher for males, smokers and older ages. Cover and premiums are subject to individual assessment.

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All round, Zurich Municipal is well worth considering for insurance cover. Why not phone them on 0800 147 147 – it's free. Their helpful staff are ready to take your call from 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. Please quote the reference IND2406.

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PRIVATE FIRMS JOIN IN THE BUSINESS OF EDUCATION



Zone backers: Shell, BT and Newcastle United

The first 12 zones, opening in September 1998:

North and East Barnsley, 21 schools. Partners include BT and computer giant Bull Information Systems.

South Blackburn and Darwen, 22 schools. Private partners include Blackburn Rovers FC and ICI.

New Addington, Croydon, nine schools. Partners include Edexcel (formerly the London Examinations Board).

South Hereford and the Black Mountains, 22 schools. Partners include Tesco and the Prince's Trust.

Lambeth, 27 schools. Partners include IBM, ICL, National Theatre, Shell International and the Royal Festival Hall.

South and West Leicester, 23 schools. Partners include Leicester City FC.

East Middlesbrough, 18 schools. Partners include Middlesbrough FC

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 19 schools. Partners include Newcastle United FC.

Newham, 19 schools. Partners include Arthur Andersen, BT and Tate & Lyle.

Grimsby, 17 schools. Partners include World Challenge Expeditions (organises international school trips).

Salford and Trafford, 18 schools. Partners include Barclays Bank, Kelloggs and John Laing Construction.

Weston-super-Mare, 23 schools. Partners include McDonald's, NSPCC and educational consultants Nord Anglia.

The next 13 zones, opening in January 1999:

Birmingham, Aston and Nechells, 21 schools. Partners include Barnardos.

Birmingham, Kates Green and Shard End, 15 schools. Partners include Rover, Cadbury and the National Exhibition Centre.

East Brighton, 12 schools. Partners include Nissan and Rolls-Royce.

Southwark, 13 schools. Partners include Price Waterhouse and American Express.

East Basildon, 30 schools. Partners include Research Machines (educational computer group).

Wigan, 30 schools. Partners include North West Water.

North and West Halifax, 29 schools. Partners include the Halifax.

Hull, Bradford, 18 schools. Partners include British Aerospace.

Theftford, Norfolk, 10 schools. Private partners include a local business group.

Nottingham, Bulwell, 10 schools. Partners include local business group.

West Plymouth, 20 schools. Partners include British Aerospace, BT and Brittany Ferries.

North East Sheffield, 21 schools. Partners include BT and Yorkshire Water.

South Tyneside, 13 schools. Private partners include Nissan and Rolls-Royce.

Southwark, 13 schools. Partners include Price Waterhouse and the Financial Times.

Wigan, 30 schools. Partners include North West Water.

Herb hopes grow for alcoholics

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

they don't like to take medications that have side effects. St John's wort might be different in that it would just reduce their desire for alcohol."

Dr Rezvani decided to investigate the herb because depression and alcoholism were thought to have a strong biological link. "If it worked for de-

pression, then it might just have a beneficial effect on alcoholism," he said. "Many people think the link may be a deficiency of serotonin, a neurotransmitter in the brain."

The findings were presented yesterday at a meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

The researchers compared the behaviour of rats that were given the extract and another group that was not. All were offered a choice between alcohol and water.

Over a 24 hour period the rats treated with the herbal extract drank half as much alcohol as the untreated animals.

KEN LIVINGSTONE

Although spin doctors are good at spinning about their own omnipotence, when we examine the record, they're not much good'

—THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3



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Jane, as mentioned above, has a business association with Zurich Municipal.

A bumpy ride down the single-track road of Scotland

YESTERDAY WAS the day I had been dreading. Forty minutes of sheer boredom at Scottish questions were relieved by few moments of parliamentary excitement.

After the heady atmosphere during the age of consent debate the previous evening the House of Commons got back to normal with Scottish members peddling their local hobbyhorses with eyes only on their local newspaper headlines.

David Stewart (Lab, Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber) was concerned about road deaths in his constituency and stimulated other members with Highland constituencies, such as Robert MacLennan (Lab Dem, Caithness).

Sutherland and Easter Ross, to formulate about the need for a policy to deal with single-track roads. Quite what the Government, regardless of complexion, could do about this "problem" escapes me.

We moved onto livelet ground when Eleanor Laing (Con, Epping Forest), fresh from her brave stand in the age of consent debate, homed in on the scandal of direct labour department incompetence in Scottish local government. Mrs Laing is fast becoming one of the Tory women rising stars and packs a powerful scratch.

Tories, frightened of raising sleaze for obvious reasons, are beginning to draw blood by raising the

embarrassments of Labour's record in Scottish local government and Mrs Laing was ably followed up by the other star new girl, journalist turned politician Julie Kirkbride (Con, Bromsgrove), who tackled Donald Dewar, Secretary of State, on abuses by the Labour-controlled East Ayrshire Council.

Mr Dewar would normally have passed the buck on this to his junior minister Calum Macdonald but Mr Dewar told the House that "my Hon Friend the member for Western Isles has been sent to France for the Moroccan game".

Mr Dewar then played for time by doing the usual ritual of wishing the Scottish lads well, saying how

is concerned", a few words about enquiries, reviews and the need to await the outcome of something called the "Mackintosh Report".

I am sure Mr Dewar genuinely does want to clean up the Scottish Labour Party and there are clear signs that he is using his substantial influence to this effect but, in the time being, Tories are scoring some runs on this issue, even if ironically, the Scottish Nationalists are the electoral beneficiary.

The new Tory spokesman, Liam Fox, wade in, to good effect, on his first outing. He is a bright boy who has had a meteoric rise in the party, having been elected only in 1992. One of Mr Hague's acolytes,

he gave Mr Dewar an awkward time by demanding that no taxpayer in the slate councils would have to pay for the incompetence and inefficiencies of Labour town hall bosses. Mr Dewar admitted he could give no such assurances.

Dr Norman Godman (Lab, Grenock and Inverclyde) suggested that reform of the local electoral system was the answer and, in passing, referred to his wife's recent selection as a candidate for the proposed Scottish Assembly. We learned that Mr Dewar is "looking forward to having dinner with you and your wife on Saturday".

Jonathan Sargeant (Con, Mid Bedfordshire) hammered home the

Tory attack by reminding Mr Dewar of Monklands Council, which has a history of nepotism and abuse of public trust. "Were these problems known when Neil Kinnock and John Smith were Labour leaders?" he bellowed.

Mr Dewar, consummate Commons performer when in the corner simply hurled friendly abuse and ignored the question. "The Hon Gentleman is an early Monty Python without the humour."

Sadly, from my point of view, would have given anything for Monty Python to have enlivened yesterday's proceedings, with or without the humour.

Roll on devolution!

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

Standards chief quits as Porter's QC

PUBLIC LIFE

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

LORD NEILL, the public standards watchdog, has been forced to withdraw from representing Dame Shirley Porter in court amid claims that the move would cause a conflict of interest.

The Chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life had agreed to act as barrister for Dame Shirley, who is facing a £27m surcharge over a "homes for votes" scandal at Westminster City Council.

Lord Neill said in a statement that he had pulled out of the case because of a "perceived conflict" between his role as her lawyer and as chairman of the committee. He had already obtained leave for her to appeal.

"I have advised her that continuing prejudicial comment concerning my representation of her would be damaging to her interest. In the light of a perceived conflict between my two roles such comment would also be likely to impede the work of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, of which I have the honour to be chairman," he said.

Dame Shirley issued her own statement expressing anger at attacks on Lord Neill over the issue.

"It very much regret that as a result of a political vendetta the Court of Appeal will now be deprived of the opportunity to hear his advocacy and argue

menis on my behalf. Certain Labour MPs who used similar harassing tactics when opposition members on Westminster Council have again ruthlessly used the media to poison the atmosphere around this case," she said.

The announcement came just after MPs voted to write to Lord Neill to ask him to explain his decision to take on the case.

The Commons' public administration committee agreed in private session to make the approach after a request from one of its members, the former deputy leader of the Westminster Council Labour group Peter Bradley (The Wrekin.)

Earlier, Mr Bradley said the committee might call Lord Neill to make a personal appearance on the matter. He said the peer should withdraw from Dame Shirley's legal team.

"He may think that conflicts of interest do not arise - that is not how the rest of the world sees it.

"It is crucial given his position as the chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life that he is not only above reproach but is seen to be above reproach," he said.

Another senior Labour MP,

David Winnick, welcomed the decision to withdraw, but said Lord Neill should never have put himself in such a position.

"There was clearly a potential conflict of interest. If he had continued as counsel for Lady Porter, then clearly there would have had to be a question mark over his continuing as chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life," he said.

Lord Neill last week insisted that he was taking the case in the Court of Appeal on the "cab-rank principle" whereby barristers took cases as they emerged.

He said members of the bar did not pick and choose their cases on the basis of the popularity or unpopularity of the case or the client.

Downing Street had responded to growing media unrest over the affair last week by saying that it was a matter for Lord Neill, and not a matter for the Government.

Lord Neill's committee is at present completing its deliberations on a review of the funding of political parties.

The review was launched after the Bernie Ecclestone affair last year when Lord Neill told Labour it should return a £1 million donation from the Formula One boss after he lobbied successfully for an exemption to a ban on tobacco sponsorship.



Lord Neill: "Perceived conflict" in Dame Shirley Porter case Ian Waldie/Reuters

THE HOUSE



£5 payment suggested to raise turnouts at elections

VOTERS could be given £5 for marking their crosses at elections to try to reverse years of falling turnouts, an MP suggested yesterday. Martin Linton (Lab, Battersea), formerly a journalist specialising in elections, made the suggestion to the Home Affairs Select Committee, which is reviewing the electoral system. Other measures considered by the committee to boost turnout - 71 per cent at the last general election - included reform of electoral registration and formal political education in schools. Representatives of the three main parties all expressed opposition to voting being made compulsory.

Dobson accused in copies dispute
THE TORIES accused Frank Dobson, Health Secretary, of a "blatant breach" of procedure by having photocopied, at taxpayers' expense, a briefing for Labour MPs on NHS waiting lists. Ann Widdecombe, shadow Health Secretary, has written to Sir Richard Wilson, Cabinet Secretary and head of the Home Civil Service, asking whether such "large-scale partisan briefing" was permissible, desirable, or consistent with Civil Service standards. Mr Dobson had earlier said the document was produced, photocopied and distributed by one of his department's special advisers.

IoD warns on Kyoto costs

HIGHER TRANSPORT costs for firms and lower UK competitiveness could result from the Government's pledge to cut greenhouse gases, Tim Melville-Ross, director-general of the Institute of Directors, said. Measures to cut emissions in the forthcoming "Integrated Transport" White Paper could include moves to discourage the use of company cars, to switch more freight to rail and to encourage workers to use public transport, he said in a speech in London about the impact of the Kyoto deal to cut climate-changing gases.

Today in the House of Commons

- Welsh Questions
- Prime Minister's Question Time
- Ten minute debate on sale of alcohol to young people
- Debate on Human Rights Bill
- Adjournment debate on coastal erosion

All-party group will work to improve legal status of gays

CIVIL RIGHTS

BY SAM COATS
AND FRAN ABRAMS

MPs are to set up an all-party parliamentary group to press for further gay rights reforms after Monday's vote for an equal age of consent at 16.

Evan Harris, a Liberal Democrat MP who had tried to force through extra measures during Monday night's debate, said a group of members from all sides would continue to press for change.

Gays could still be prosecuted for group sex while heterosexuals could not, he said. He is also calling for adults prosecuted in the past for gay sex with 16 or 17-year-olds to have their names removed from the sex offenders' register.

The group will also campaign for equal pension rights and other forms of recognition for gay couples.

Mr Harris said his attempt had been useful, even though it

The leading gay rights organisation Stonewall also vowed to continue campaigning for full equality for gay people. It wants to overturn the ban on gays in the military and legislation that prevents advice being given to gay teenagers by local authorities and state schools.

"It is by no means the end of the battle to secure full equality for lesbians and gay men, but it does mark a turning point," said Angela Mason, Stonewall's executive director. "MPs have made it clear they believe the law can no longer discriminate in the way it has done for generations."

Peter Tatchell of the gay rights group Outrage said he would also be pushing for legal recognition of same-sex relationships and equal parenting rights for gays and lesbians.

A leading tax expert called yesterday for the Government to examine the "current inequalities" in the tax regime that penalise partners in a gay relationship.

Bob Rothenberg, a senior partner of Blick Rothenberg, chartered accountants, said: "If the Government's intention is to promote equality, then it should look to create tax equality too."

Currently, married couples receive a tax allowance equivalent to £285 a year, but this is not available to gay couples. Mr Rothenberg said same-sex couples also lose out when it comes to inheritance tax.

"The Government has stated it will look at other aspects of the law to ensure equality between gay and straight couples. Perhaps it is time to start looking again at tax equality for all people in long-term relationships."

Action Against Smoking, said: "The Tory MEPs were part of the whole effort by the EPP to the Conservative grouping in the European Parliament, to block it with wrecking amendments.

"It is a very sordid story. We thought that the Tories had cleaned up their act, since co-operating with the tobacco industry in the 1992 election, when they used their hoarding sites for posters. William Hague wanted to rid the Tory party of the corrosive, sleazy odour that haunted the party.

It seems they are back in the pockets of the tobacco companies," Mr Bates said.

Last night Clive Bates, of

the European Parliament, tabled amendments that would drag out the implementation timetable.

"They knew that many of the decisions which had been negotiated were based on a very fragile consensus with no latitude for renegotiation," said Ms Jowell.

The Tories' tactics of using legal challenges would have postponed the advertising ban until Britain handed over the European Union presidency to the Austrians, who opposed it.

Cook faces telegram challenge

ARMS TO AFRICA

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

early completion of a comprehensive and consistent report.

Yesterday there were attempts to limit the questioning of Sir John Kerr to Treasury cuts in the Foreign Office. He told the MPs that he believed it had been squeezed so much "you can hear the pips squeak".

Wading into a funding row between the Foreign Secretary and Chancellor Gordon Brown, Sir John warned that staff cuts had left many outposts "lacking critical mass".

"There has been a very considerable down-size and there is a danger that down-sizing can be taken too far."

"There are opportunities that the UK should be seizing around the world, which the process of steady downward trend will make it very difficult to sustain," Sir John told the Committee.

Sir John Kerr was left outside the committee after giving evidence on the Treasury's squeeze on the Foreign Office, while the MPs confined their row in private.

The row followed earlier clashes at a hearing between the top civil servant at the Foreign Office and the former Tory defence minister, over the refusal to give answers on the ground that it would conflict with the Legg inquiry into the Sandline affair.

But that same reason was given by the Foreign Secretary when he wrote to the committee refusing the request to see the telegrams which could prove that officials knew about the involvement of British mercenaries in the fight to free Sierra Leone from an armed coup.

At that time Mr Cook said: "The Government cannot disclose information which falls within the result of Sir Thomas Legg's investigation while it is in progress, because to do so could prejudice it."

"It is also Sir Thomas Legg's view that the release of documents now could be damaging to the prospects for the

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

University student-staff ratio rises

THE RATIO of students to staff in universities was 16.6 in 1995-96, compared to 16.5 in 1994-95, according to Kim Howells, the education minister.

Increase in education funding

ALISTAIR DARLING, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told Francis Maude (Con, Horsham) that between 1979-80 and 1997-98 there was a 1.6 per cent increase in real terms of public spending on education.

Mouse-eared bat an extinct species

THERE IS only one confirmed extinction of a species within the UK during the past 10 years - the Greater mouse-eared bat (*Myotis myotis*), which has been extinct since 1990, the environment minister Angela Eagle told Nigel Jones (Lab Dem, Cheltenham).

Department of Health cost limits

FRANK DOBSON, the Secretary of State for Health, said that the cash limit for health, community health, and related services will increase by £6.5m to £31,392,213,000. The cash limit for the Department of Health, administration, and miscellaneous health and personal social services will be reduced by £1.2m to £1,093,779,000. This reduction will allow for the transfer of responsibility of childcare and early years policy. The department's gross running cost limit will be increased by £4.4m to £262,915,000 to allow for additional work pensions, he told Helen Southworth (Lab, Warrington South).



A bottlenose dolphin and calf - infanticide was previously unknown

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

ONE OF Britain's two resident groups of dolphins is killing its own young, in the first behaviour of its kind ever recorded.

They are the same group of bottlenose dolphins in the Moray Firth in north-east Scotland that two years ago were revealed as attacking and killing their small cousins, harbour porpoises. Now the animals have been shown to be killing their own young, in the first example of infanticide recorded in cetaceans - dolphins, porpoises and whales.

Their behaviour was uncovered by a joint team of zoologists from Aberdeen University and vets from the Scottish Agricultural College in Inverness.

The vets carried out post-mortem examinations on five baby dolphins washed up on shore, and found that they had suffered injuries identical to those seen on the porpoises killed by dolphins. They had



A dolphin attacking a harbour porpoise in the Moray Firth

Dolphins that kill their young make mockery of playful image



mon in some of the larger mammals, such as lions and some primates, where males sometimes kill the young of their rivals to increase the chances of their own reproductive success.

It has never been observed in cetaceans before, but in fact it might be widespread, said Paul Thompson, another of the researchers. "They're difficult animals to study. You're only seeing a very small part of their lives. These behaviours could be very widespread but you don't spot them till someone points them out."

The researchers warn that "it may have serious consequences for the viability of small populations".

Asked if people might find the discovery disturbing, Mr Thompson said: "I don't think it devalues people's opinions of dolphins. They're quite remarkable as wild animals and we should respect them for what they are, not what we think they are."

years that they were occasionally attacking the much smaller harbour porpoises, throwing them clear of the water and battering them to death.

The researchers point out that the dolphin calves that have also been killed are almost identical in size to the porpoises - about a metre and a half long - and think the two types of attacks may be linked, though they do not know why.

Infanticide is relatively common in some of the larger mammals, such as lions and some primates, where males sometimes kill the young of their rivals to increase the chances of their own reproductive success.

Vitamin sales ban attacked by MPs

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

The GOVERNMENT was last night condemned for accepting deeply flawed advice to ban the sale over the counter of large doses of vitamin B6, which is used by three million women to relieve premenstrual tension or depression.

The damning report by a cross-party select committee of MPs came as an embarrassing blow to Jeff Rooker, the agriculture minister, who is pressing ahead with the new safety limits, and cast fresh doubts on the threat to limit the intake of other vitamins such as vitamin C.

The report also threatened to engulf the Ministry of Agriculture in a new controversy over its "nannying" in seeking to protect the public from risks in the wake of the beef-on-the-bone ban.

The findings could lead to a reprieve for consumers who regularly take high doses of the vitamin B6 for a range of problems, including premenstrual tension, and who would have to get a prescription for high doses if the new limits are passed.

The MPs urged Mr Rooker to abandon his proposal to limit the sale over the counter of vitamin B6 to a daily dose of 10mg, and seek a voluntary agreement allowing doses to ten times that limit.

They made an extraordinary attack on the "stubbornness" of the Committee on Toxicity in Foods (Cot), which advised Mr Rooker to set the safe limit at 10mg.

The select committee, chaired by Tory MP Peter Luff, said Professor H J Woods, the chairman of Cot, had responded fully to questions by the MPs but it accused Cot of being "certainly not the point of rudeness" with consumer ob-

jections. Describing Cot's advice as "patently wrong", the MPs said: "We have been dismayed by the stubbornness and defensiveness which Cot has displayed following serious scientific challenges which have been made to its findings."

The committee said: "The crucial error made by Cot was not to establish clear criteria for evaluating the significance of different research data. It failed to establish criteria for distinguishing between good and bad science."

Cot's advice was based on a study of 172 women attending a private clinic who were found to have raised blood serum B6 levels. A total of 163 of the women complained of neurological symptoms including muscle weakness and numbness.

But the Vitamin B6 Scientific Task Group criticised the study for failing to use an untreated control group. Professor Woods told the MPs the study was weak but consistent with other findings, but the MPs said the doubts about the study were "so serious that it is scientifically unjustifiable to use them as the basis for establishing a lowest observed adverse effect level in relation to vitamin B6 intake".

Professor Woods has been appointed to chair the Expert Group on Vitamins and Minerals to review the use of large doses of other vitamins. There was no direct criticism in the report of Professor Woods, but Chris Whitehouse, of Consumers for Health Choice, which lobbied against the limit, said the report had made Professor Woods's position on the new expert group "untenable".

Gay festival hit by cash crisis

GAY PRIDE, the biggest gay and lesbian festival in Europe, has been postponed this year because of a cash shortage.

The organiser, Pride Events UK, is struggling to raise an extra £25,000 deposit demand by London's Lambeth Council. A £20,000 fee for the Metropolitan Police for security at the festival and the march also needs to be paid.

Pride Events UK said: "The Pride '98 festival and march have been postponed. Pride Events UK is currently in negotiations with Lambeth Council and the police to reschedule."

The company now expects the event, originally scheduled for 4 July, to take place later, probably in August.

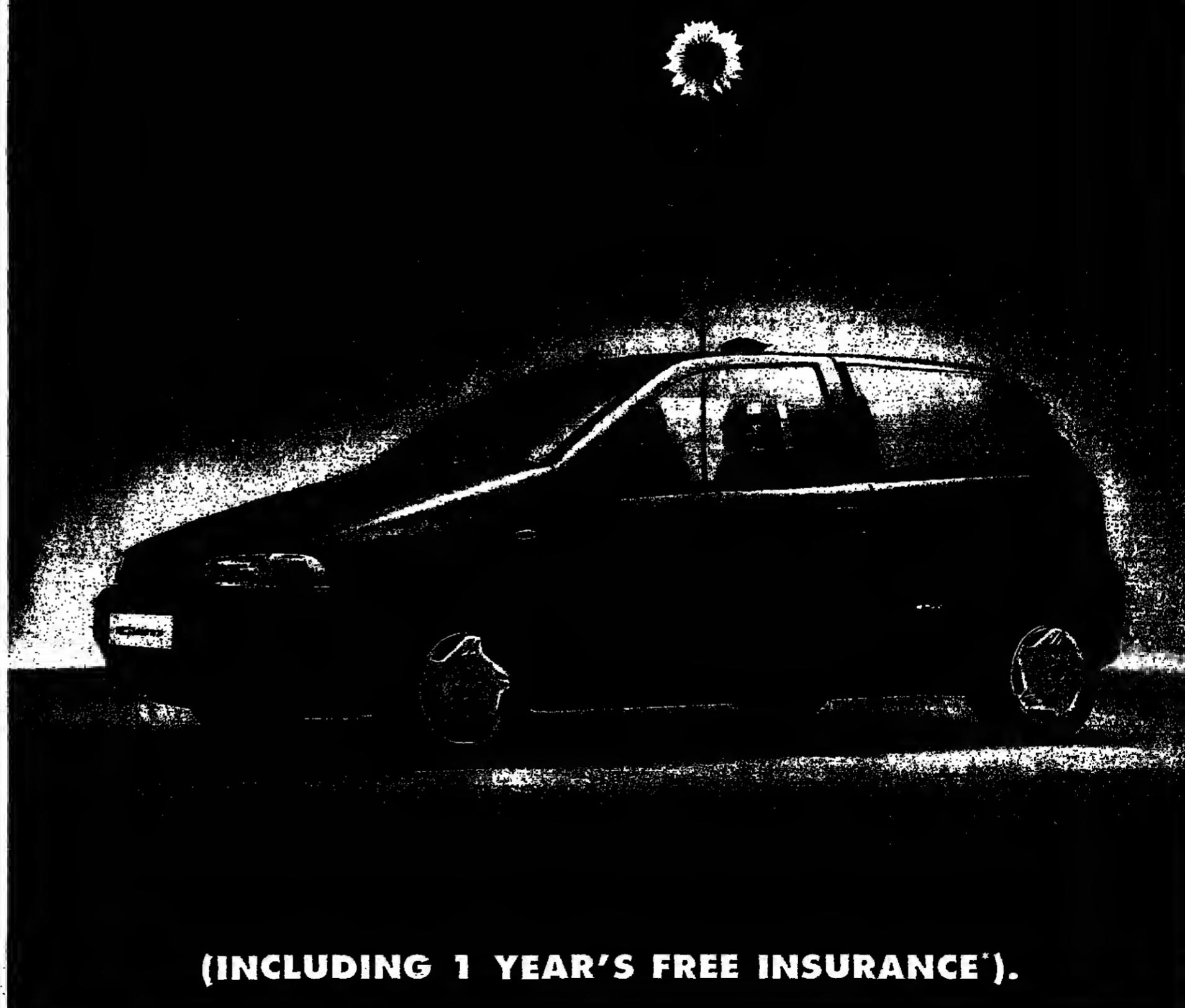
Pride Events UK said it had

been posed severe financial difficulties by Lambeth's late decision to raise the deposit for the use of Clapham Common from £50,000 to £75,000.

The council became worried at the growing size of the event and insisted on a maximum capacity of 100,000 - less than half last year's attendance - forcing Pride Events UK to issue 25 tickets for a festival which previously was free. That in turn led to the police charging for the first time for security at the event. So far only about a third of the tickets have been sold.

This is the first time that Pride Events UK has staged the festival, which first took place 27 years ago. The previous organiser went bust following last year's event.

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Homes scandal: Buckinghamshire made 'serious mistakes' over complaints about treatment of patients

Council told to act on abuse of mentally ill

A COUNCIL finally apologised yesterday to dozens of mentally disabled people brutally abused while in its care following the publication of a damning independent report into its actions.

Buckinghamshire County Council, which last year said it was "proud" of how it handled the case, said it now accepted "serious mistakes" were made. Its social services director, Jean Jeffery, is to take early retirement.

Residents of two private homes run by Gordon Rowe and licensed by the council endured mental, physical and sexual abuse over a period of more than a decade.

But although complaints were made, many families of the residents knew nothing of the scandal until 1994 when *The Independent* exposed a secret report into the offences.

Yesterday, the nine-month inquiry – ordered by the Government after Buckinghamshire refused to act – concluded with 95 recommendations to ensure such a tragedy did not happen again.

Among them was a plea for those who harm or exploit vulnerable adults to face up to 10 years in prison instead of the current maximum penalty of two years. The report also proposed tighter regulations for the registration and inspection of residential care centres and of day services for people with learning disabilities.

Other local authorities should also take note, added Dr Philippa Russell, a community care adviser to the report.

The case was "an important marker in a long process of change within which we are beginning to recognise both the rights of people with learning disabilities as citizens but also to acknowledge their vulnerabilities", says the report.

The inquiry team led by Tom Burgner, a former senior civil

BY LOUISE JURY

servant, found "serious mistakes" were made by the council and its inspectors concerning the homes run by Gordon Rowe and his company, Longcare.

Inspectors failed to investigate concerns raised as early as 1983 when Rowe first applied for registration and again from 1991, when the council began receiving complaints.

"The abusive regime at Longcare should have been exposed and ended earlier," Mr Burgner concluded.

An inexperienced inspection unit failed to investigate pro-

plaints were made.

Although progress has been made in social services provision, Mr Burgner said Buckinghamshire's policies were still flawed.

The greatest single weakness in Buckinghamshire's services for people with learning disabilities is the absence of strategic direction and visionary leadership within social services and jointly with other key agencies.

Mr Burgner said openness, vigilance and support for staff who blow the whistle on poor practice were needed to protect such residents.

The report also stressed the importance of co-operation with agencies, including health officials and the police.

Detectives who originally investigated the case did not consider charges under the Mental Health Act, although convictions were eventually secured under that legislation.

Up to 50 residents of Longcare, some with a mental age of only three, are thought to have suffered abuse, ill-treatment or neglect at the hands of Gordon Rowe, his wife, Angela, and some staff. Rowe committed suicide before he could be charged with offences including rape. Angela was jailed for two and a half years.

All complaints should be investigated as a requirement of the Registered Homes Act 1994.

Staff making complaints should receive protection.

Inspection unit should produce standards for residential homes for people with learning disabilities.

Stricter checks on applicants seeking to register to run homes.

Adult protection committees should be set up to co-ordinate action.

KEY POINTS

Recommendations for the council and for government:

A new criminal offence of causing harm to or exploiting a vulnerable adult with 10 years' imprisonment maximum penalty.

All complaints should be investigated as a requirement of the Registered Homes Act 1994.

Staff making complaints should receive protection.

Inspection unit should produce standards for residential homes for people with learning disabilities.

Stricter checks on applicants seeking to register to run homes.

Adult protection committees should be set up to co-ordinate action.

Early so there was no systematic accumulation of the evidence.

The report gives much support to families who argued the council should never have allowed Rowe a licence because of complaints made at his previous workplace in Somerset and that it should have been withdrawn when the new com-

plaints were made.

But he said implementing the recommendations would require funding at a time when the authority was facing making cuts to services.

Paul Boateng, the health minister, said he expected Buckinghamshire to act on its "unacceptable failures".

Leading article, Review, page 3



Pauline Hennessey believes her sister Janet's health was destroyed by Gordon Rowe's abusive regime at Longcare *Anglia Press Agency*

Victim who paid with her life

BY LOUISE JURY

when he said he was her boyfriend: "She would say, 'Gordon said he loved me. Why did he hurt me?'"

Eventually, the young woman's health began to deteriorate. She became disruptive and unable to speak. Her family removed her from the home only to discover several months later that she had been abused.

This devastating blow came just two days before *The Independent* revealed that Buckinghamshire social services had kept secret a damning report into the running of the two Longcare homes.

Janet Ward would have probably given evidence. Her sister believes she would have proved a most reliable witness over the rape allegations.

Ms Ward believed Rowe

conclusions of an inquiry she feared would be a whitewash.

"But it's important that the recommendations are acted on and followed through," she said.

"Those victims suffered for anything up to 10 years. My one wish is for us to learn from it. Let's prevent it happening to other people."

Many of the families are still in touch through the support group Justice for Longcare Survivors, which Mrs Hennessey helped set up.

"I think a lot of them are so wrapped up with the injustice and picking up the pieces, I don't think they've had time to reflect really," she said.

"In my case, it's a question of trying not to think about it and doing something about it instead. I'm fighting, but I can't think about the things

they did to Janet. It just makes me go cold."

"The fact that they let it continue is what really upsets me, when they could have stopped it so much earlier."

"One final annoyance remains. The families were appalled when they were told they could not attend yesterday's unveiling of the report."

"Yet again, it's a classic example of the way Buckinghamshire treat the parents," she said.

"I believe that if Buckinghamshire had said that they were sorry and admitted some responsibility for what happened, most of us wouldn't have taken it further. It was the sheer arrogance. Even after they (Angela Rowe, Lorraine Field and Desmond Tully) were found guilty, they would not say sorry."

Electronic smog – 'invisible assassin'

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

We don't care where it comes from, we just want to find a solution and to stop the interference," he said.

Power cables on the Underground are thought to be primarily responsible for generating the electromagnetic disturbances that have affected the signalling computers. But laptops, mobile phones and other devices are believed to be making matters worse, the spokesman said.

Electronic smog has been a growing problem because of the inclusion of sophisticated microelectronic circuitry in everything from cars and washing machines to phones and cameras.

Edward Leigh, when he was trade and industry minister in 1993, cited instances of electronic smog causing fatal accidents – a British worker died when a computer-controlled crane dropped its load; robots killed two Japanese workers when the machines ran out of control; and anti-lock brakes would suddenly come into op-

eration on a section of German motorway that ran past a powerful radio transmitter.

Mobile phones have been blamed for interfering with hospital life-support systems and were even credited with disrupting the computers controlling the moving stage sets for *Sunset Boulevard*, the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical.

Airlines warn passengers to switch off mobile phones and laptops at critical stages in the flight because of interference to sensitive navigation computers.

A European-wide directive came into effect in 1996 to curb unwanted emissions of electromagnetic waves from electrical devices. But some experts believe it is failing to stem the growth of electronic pollution.

The best method of shielding equipment against electronic smog is to build a Faraday cage around the equipment, which the military have done for years to protect its command and control systems from electronic jamming. This, however, is cumbersome and too expensive for most civilian computers.

Grandfather 'threw girl, 3, to death'

BY KIM SENGUPTA

A THREE-YEAR-OLD girl was flung to her death from a seventh floor flat by her drunken grandfather after she pleaded to be taken home to her mother; the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

A neighbour thought at first that Anthony Volney was throwing a bag of rubbish over the balcony. But, the court was told, it was his granddaughter Sasha Davies, who received terrible injuries and died after spending three days unconscious in hospital.

Sasha, 12 days from her fourth birthday, was meant to have been looked after by Mr Volney on the evening of the al-

leged murder. She was taken to a club near his home in Kilburn, north-west London, where he had caused trouble after drinking and had been asked to look after her.

The girl had spent the night with him before and was happy with the arrangement. At the time he seemed his normal, happy self, said Ms Davies.

Sasha was later taken by her mother and grandfather to a local club, and Ms Davies left her there with him. He was thrown out later and took Sasha with him, dragging her towards his flat. "She was screaming 'I want to go home', and he was saying 'you little s---'", said Mr Lovell-Plank.

Dorian Lovell-Plank, QC, for prosecution, told the court that Sasha had been taken to the flat by her mother, Nadia Davies, and Mr Volney had offered to look after her.

The girl had spent the night with him before and was happy with the arrangement. At the time he seemed his normal, happy self, said Ms Davies.

Sasha was later taken by her mother and grandfather to a local club, and Ms Davies left her there with him. He was thrown out later and took Sasha with him, dragging her towards his flat. "She was screaming 'I want to go home', and he was saying 'you little s---'", said Mr Lovell-Plank.

A woman living opposite the block of flats heard Sasha crying in "a pitiful way", said Mr Lovell-Plank.

"She saw him push the girl so violently that her head collided with a wall of the building. She could hear the impact 40 yards away."

One of Mr Volney's neighbours described what he saw and heard once Sasha was taken back to the flat.

Mr Lovell-Plank said: "He heard a child in distress and a man who was swearing a lot. He thought the girl sounded petrified. Every time she said something, the man would swear back and she would

scream even more. There was one last scream, then he saw the defendant pick up the girl with both hands and drop her over the balcony."

However, Mr Lovell-Plank said, it was dark and at first he thought it may have been a bag of rubbish.

Mr Lovell-Plank told the jury: "The killing of small children is always upsetting. It makes us angry and can make us emotional. Try if you can to put such feelings to one side."

Mr Volney, of Kilburn, north-west London, denies murdering Sasha Davies on 6 August last year.

The case continues.

"Company policy" is cited as the reason.

Paul Butcher, managing director of Mitel, said that while Britain was way ahead of continental countries in switching to home-working, we were behind the US.

Mitel argues that there are substantial long-term financial advantages for companies, and environmental advantages for the community.

AN EXTRA 300,000 employees in Britain started to work from home over the past 12 months as part of the "teleworking" revolution, says a poll published yesterday by the Confederation of British Industry and Mitel. It was argued that far more jobs could be partly performed at home, compared with the previous 12 months.

It was found that nearly one in three "knowledge workers", especially in the financial sector, telecommunications, marketing, sales, professional services and media were now teleworking or planning to do so.

It is forecast that 25 per cent of jobs could be the subject of teleworking while the Telework, Teleservice and Telecentre Association estimates that the proportion could be as much as a half of all non-manual jobs.

However, in nine out of 10 businesses where employees are not already teleworking, managers say they have no plans to take up the option.

Teleworking revolution gathers pace

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Record: Interned March 1972 - June 1972; re-interned and later imprisoned 1973 - 1977; remand prisoner 1978	Record: Never jailed in Northern Ireland but twice imprisoned in the Irish Republic	Record: Prison terms in Belfast, Dublin & London, also held in Holland	Record: Four years in the Maze prison in the late 1970s	Life and times: In 1975 received two life sentences for the murders of two Catholic half-brothers shot dead on the Falls Road. Was 18 years old at the time of the killings. Released on licence in 1991.	Life and times: Served 15 years for sectarian murders
Life and times: President of Sinn Fein and MP for West Belfast. Wrote of his prison experiences in the book "Cage 11: For a while I was an interned, a sentenced prisoner and a remand prisoner, all at the same time." Released from internment in the summer of 1972 to take part in secret talks with the government. Internment ended in 1975 but he remained behind bars serving sentences for two escape attempts.	Life and times: In January 1973 jailed for six months by a Dublin court for IRA membership. In February 1974 same court sentenced him to 12 months on a similar charge. In 1976 IRA membership charges dropped by a Belfast court.	Life and times: In 1960s escaped from prison in both Belfast and Dublin. Sentenced to life imprisonment for placing car bomb at London's Old Bailey in 1972; almost escaped from Wormwood Scrubs; later transferred to Northern Ireland, escaping from the Maze in 1983. Arrested in Amsterdam, returned to Northern Ireland, freed several years ago.	Life and times: Arrested while transporting an Ulster Volunteer Force bomb. Was forced by troops to defuse it at gunpoint, later jailed. Released in 1980, first standing for election in 1984.	Life and times: Met John Major in Downing Street two years ago.	Record: Served 14 years for sectarian murders

The hard men seeking Ulster's votes

ALL OVER Northern Ireland men with serious prison records are banging on doors, pushing objects through letter-boxes and accosting citizens going about their business. Police are doing nothing about this. The reason is that these people are involved not in illegal activity but in electioneering, seeking seats in the new Belfast assembly whose 108 members will be elected tomorrow.

BY DAVID MCKRICK
Ireland Correspondent

The Irish peace process means that the assembly will bring together not only conventional politicians but also republicans and loyalists whose previous paramilitary activities led them to long stretches

The phenomenon of prison-er-turned-politician is a familiar one in Irish history, and is often regarded not as a disgrace but as a badge of honour. The 1960s terms served by the Rev Ian Paisley were recently commemorated in a new

stained-glass window in his Martyrs' Memorial Church.

Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, of Sinn Fein, are already MPs, while a number of their Unionist counterparts have also been to jail following protests against the Anglo-

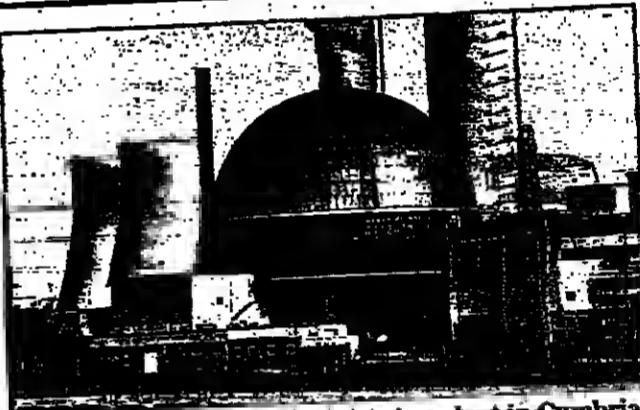
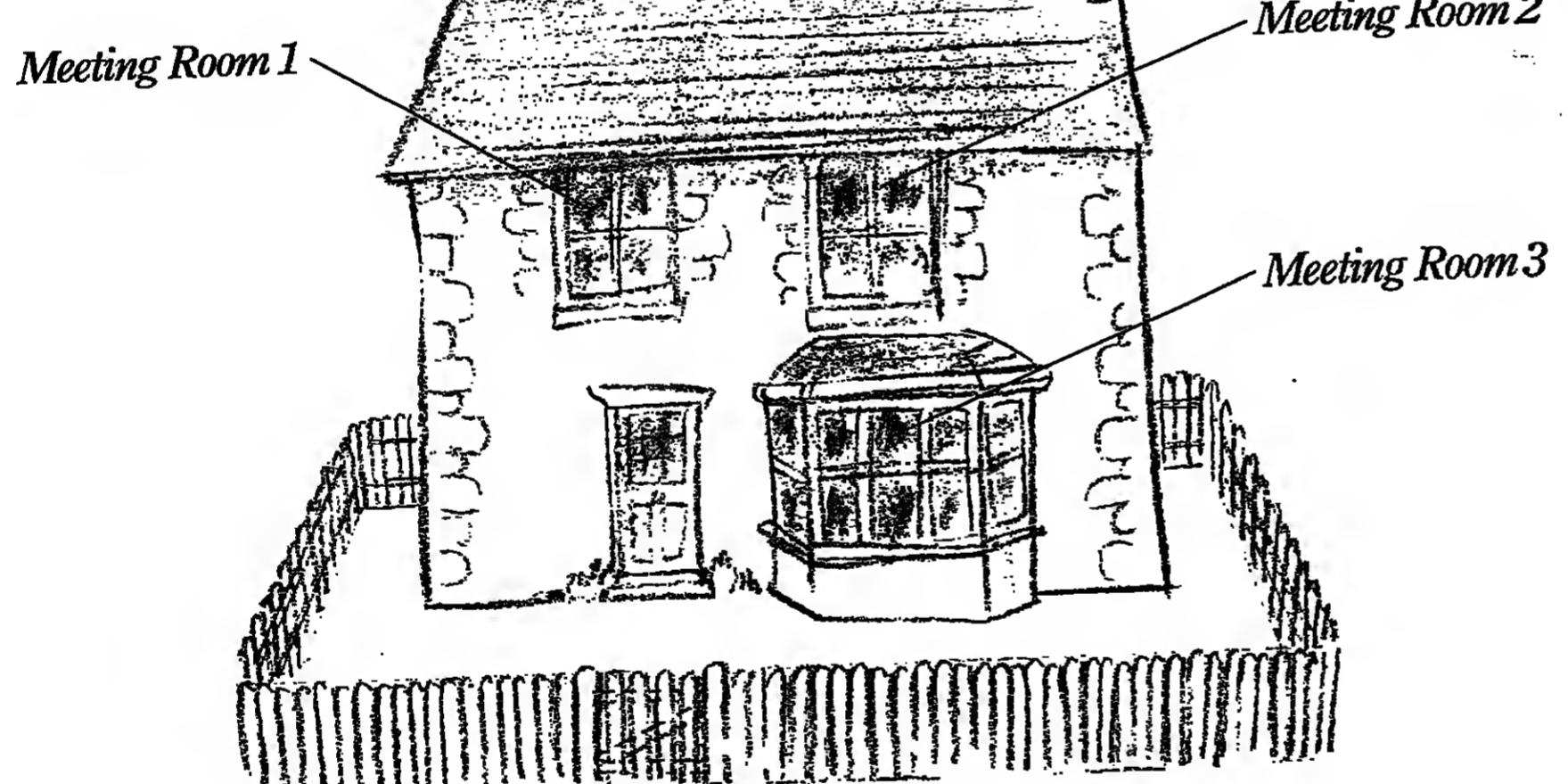
Fein members making up most of these. Republicans have regularly elected ex-prisoners; in 1981 they elected to Westminster Bobby Sands, the IRA prisoner who was at the time on hunger strike in the Maze.

In recent years, Protestants have shown a greater willingness to follow suit, as can be seen in the rise of parties such as the PUP and UDP which grew out of paramilitary groups. Figures such as David Ervine and Billy Hutchinson are already Belfast councillors, and stand a good chance of election to the assembly.

What is unusual is that many Catholics say they intend to vote for such loyalist candidates, saying they approve of their transition from the paramilitary to the political.

But for many the idea of transformation is not less difficult and painful because the path is a familiar one. The killings carried out by John White of the UDP took place a quarter of a century ago - 25

Trimble's Big Idea, Review page 4



The Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant in Cumbria

Councils want curbs on work at Sellafield

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

"It doesn't sound as though there's any abuse of the law by the NII," said a spokesman. "It sounds instead like the councils are calling for entirely new laws, such as a Freedom of Information Act."

Both Dr Thompson and Martin Hemingway, a Leeds councillor who is chair of UK Nuclear Free Local Authorities, attacked the culture of secrecy which pervades the present civil nuclear regime in Britain.

Mr Hemingway said: "NII is the safety regulator and must act in the public interest, not BNFL's, to maintain public confidence. Last week the NII said it was forced to suppress vital safety information about Dounreay reprocessing plant to avoid jeopardising commercial prospects there. The NII could only release its damning report on Dounreay safety because the plant now has no commercial prospects. We fear a similar story of 'tail wag's dog' at Sellafield."

"BNFL can stamp 'commercial in confidence' on documents, or assert proprietary rights to basic safety information to prevent NII from releasing it for public scrutiny. We believe that this weakens regulation and prevents public accountability. The Government must review the relationship between regulator and operator."

Dr Thompson, director of the Massachusetts-based Institute for Resource and Security Studies, said the best option would be to stop reprocessing now, and address the backlog of waste that now has to be cooled to stop it overheating.

BNFL has said that the present backlog will not be dealt with until at least 2015. But Dr Thompson said that by stopping reprocessing now, the existing waste could be vitrified by 2007.

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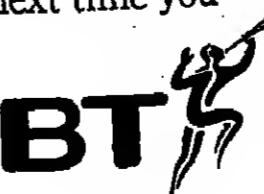
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China visit: The leaders of two great powers meet with high expectations but little chance of major agreements

Clinton's mission impossible in China

WHITE HOUSE officials in Washington have presented President Bill Clinton's nine-day state visit to China as the most important foreign trip of his second term, perhaps of his presidency. They give the distinct impression, though, that deep down, they wish it wasn't.

True, they have had less time to prepare than expected. Originally planned for the end of the year, the visit was brought forward at the urging of China. President Jiang Zemin made his state visit to Washington last November and was reportedly keen that it should be reciprocated sooner rather than later - for reasons of "face".

Yet, no major agreements are on the cards. That peren-



Clinton: avoiding trouble

nial standby of content-free summits, establishing a "hot-line" for confidential calls in an emergency, was one of the few agreements at last year's Washington summit.

The follow-up may be a reciprocal agreement to de-target nuclear missiles from each other's cities - missiles which may not even be so targeted at present. That would be a mild crowd-pleaser in the United States, given the frisson caused by a "leaked" (and unconfirmed) CIA report about Chinese missiles last month, but not much to show for nine days in the Orient.

For Mr Clinton, and the vast team of Cabinet secretaries and senior aides accompanying him, the overriding consideration is to foster improving relations with China while avoiding political trouble at home. What is seen as the diplomatic entrapment of Vice-President Al Gore last year, when he participated in a television champagne toast with China's then prime minister, Li Peng - otherwise known as the "butcher of Peking" - is engraved in the collective memory of Bill Clinton's White House, never to be repeated.

Peaking China and the folks back home at the same time is not the easiest of tricks, however. Polls show that US public

opinion has not forgotten or forgotten the events on Tiananmen Square nine years ago. Congress is overwhelmingly hostile to what the majority Republicans see as the Clinton administration's over-indulgence of Peking.

Nor can Mr Clinton count on support from Congressional Democrats. They remember his presidential campaign pitch in 1992, which included contempt for what he saw then as the Bush administration's pandering to an oppressive and corrupt regime in Peking.

Mr Clinton changed his mind about China policy very early in his presidency. Most recently, he told US China-watchers that the alternative to "constructive engagement" - Washington's code for dealing with China - was "dangerous isolation". He cited as the benefits of his policy the growth of US business with China, the freedom (in exile) granted to several prominent dissidents, China's diplomatic support in talks with North Korea and following the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, and the way Peking has resisted pressure to devalue its currency in the wake of the Asian economic crisis.

Mr Clinton must ensure nothing happens during his visit to dispel this impression of progress.

In the US, it is crucial for Mr Clinton not to seem to kowtow to China, especially on human rights. His words and comportment at the welcoming ceremony on Tiananmen Square - easily the most controversial part of his visit domestically - will have to be judged with extreme care.

A visit to relatives of some of the Tiananmen victims, or a private tribute, would be viewed positively in the US; an apology from President Jiang would be even more welcome - but neither looks likely.

The other major topic for the US is trade. The administration and business both have an interest in reducing the large Chinese trade surplus which stands - by US calculations - at \$63bn. But as a champion of free trade Mr Clinton can hardly restrict imports.

Weapons sales are banned under the post-Tiananmen Square sanctions and Mr Clinton cannot act without other nations.

Bill Clinton's China summit may look more like high-class tourism than the most important foreign trip of his presidency. But if he returns to Washington with an attractive set of videos and no diplomatic *faux pas* to his name, this may be as much of a success as the White House dare hope for.

China's leaders were very keen on a new fourth joint



A Chinese boy in Tiananmen Square yesterday shows his enthusiasm for the American president's visit

Reuters

Peking warms to benefits of PR

FROM THE moment the American president arrives in the former imperial capital of Xian tomorrow, fêted by 800 costumed actors in a ceremony designed for a Tang Dynasty emperor, Peking's main strategy is to showcase its country to the world, and particularly to the American public.

Image-making is high on China's agenda during the eight days Bill Clinton will spend on the mainland, which is just as well because the chance of any significant agreements on trade, geopolitics, or weapons non-proliferation is looking remote.

A breakthrough on China's entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) looks off the cards because Peking's latest concessions on market access are still deemed insufficient by Washington.

China's leaders were very keen on a new fourth joint

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

domestic sensitivities that thus breaking the habit of a lifetime and attempting a hit of "constructive engagement" with the image-makers - the international media.

An agreement on nuclear weapons de-targeting is similarly unlikely to emerge. Peking has already made clear it does not support the American proposal that the two countries stop pointing nuclear missiles at each other, arguing instead for a pact on "no first use".

China is, therefore, looking to the visit to shift the world's preconceptions about the country. It wants recognition as a global player in both diplomacy and economics, and points to its decision to keep the yuan stable during the Asian financial crisis.

It also wants to be seen as a fast-modernising country with global clout. The Communist propaganda machine is

thus breaking the habit of a lifetime and attempting a hit of "constructive engagement" with the image-makers - the international media.

Guided tours are on offer this week to a farm, the Capital Iron and Steel Factory, and Peking University, and officials are being wheeled out to explain policies on the environment, village elections, and religious freedom.

It is as if China had suddenly discovered pro-active public relations. And all because its leaders believe that this long-awaited state visit will finally redefine modern China's image in the US, assuaging memories of the blood-stained pavements of June 1989.

In practice, the occasion of Mr Clinton's red carpet guard of honour on Saturday will prompt more television reruns of the shootings nine years ago than any dissident press release ever could.

Mr Clinton's arrival has provided a catalyst for China's disparate pro-democracy activists to organise themselves. They seem emboldened by the state visit. Any clumsy detentions of activists by China will eclipse Peking's public relations campaign.

Against this backdrop, and particularly for domestic consumption in the US, Mr Clinton must address the human rights issue in substantive terms in one of his public speeches. That raises the question of whether the Chinese people are going to be allowed to hear what he says, or whether the state-controlled media will be censored.

The one thing that China's leaders may not be able to forgive is if the best-laid summit propaganda plans fall victim to a "bumbu eruption" during the state visit. Mr Jiang wants the world to be focused on Mr Clinton's progress through a modernising China, and not on new revelations about Monica Lewinsky and China's high-profile visitor.

Jakarta offers East Timor deal

IN A SIGN that the new regime in Jakarta is serious about reaching an agreement on East Timor, the Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas yesterday said his government was ready to give the annexed country special status in a bid to find a lasting solution to the issue that is acceptable to the international community.

Mr Alatas said he had conveyed this to the United Nations secretary-general, Kofi Annan, during a meeting in New York on Thursday.

"For this aim, Indonesia is also ready to discuss the substantial elements of the special status for East Timor with Portugal, under the framework of the tripartite dialogue under the mediation of the UN secretary-general," he said.

Speaking after a meeting Abilio Araujo of the East Timor Foundation for Reconciliation and Development, Mr Alatas said that he had asked Mr Annan

and his special envoy for East Timor, Jamsheed Master, to present the proposal to Portugal.

"If necessary, the meeting could be held at the foreign ministers level and not just the senior officials level as in the previous meetings," Mr Alatas added.

The Indonesian President BJ Habibie is due to meet Bishop Belo, spiritual leader of the East Timor today, a day before the head of state is due to make a key policy address on human rights.

Bishop Belo, won the Nobel peace prize in 1996 along with self-exiled East Timorese leader Jose Ramos-Horta for their efforts in seeking a peaceful settlement in the territory.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in December 1975, ending an independence movement that rose from the ashes of a civil war in the wake of Portugal abandoning its colony the year before. Jakarta declared

early 1980s in an effort to resolve East Timor's international status.

Mr Alatas said the Indonesian government believes that giving East Timor a special status is the real solution to the issue.

"If Portugal accepts the proposal, Indonesia is ready to discuss with it and the UN secretary-general the substantial elements of the autonomy to be given to East Timor," he said.

He further noted that Indonesia is ready to discuss its policies in making East Timor an autonomous region.

He explained that the autonomy to be given to the province will cover a large area but will exclude foreign affairs, finance and defence.

However, jailed East Timorese rebel leader Xanana Gusmao has rejected Jakarta's offers of special status or autonomy, saying only a referendum would solve the issue once and for all.

Iraq until Baghdad satisfies Butler's team that it has destroyed all weapons of mass destruction. The sanctions were imposed on Iraq in 1990 after President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, triggering the 1991 Gulf War.

Yesterday, the *Washington Post* reported that the information on VX is included in a confidential US Army laboratory analysis of warhead fragments taken from a pit at Taji, Iraq, in March.

Analysed at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, said it will not lift sanctions on

the samples from the warhead fragments revealed "significant amounts" of VX sulphide and stabiliser, the Post reported.

VX is a colourless, odourless liquid that turns into a gas when it comes into contact with oxygen. A few drops of the nerve gas can kill in minutes.

Diplomatic sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed the Post report. They said that Mr Butler presented the Iraqis with the findings during a meeting in Baghdad this month but that the Iraqis rejected them.

Nerve gas report hits Iraq's sanctions plea

By ROBERT H REID
in New York

the commission, Richard Butler, is expected to discuss the finding when he briefs the Security Council on Wednesday.

"If this allegation is correct, that will set back Iraq's efforts to try to lift sanctions," Mr Richardson said. "It shows that they've been concealing, they've been lying, and it calls into question their commitment to disarmament."

The Security Council has said it will not lift sanctions on

Call to release jailed press

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton has been urged to press for the release of journalists imprisoned in China during his visit in an open letter from the French-based organisation Reporters sans Frontières (RsF).

RsF, which campaigns for press freedom, called on Mr Clinton to use his influence during talks with Chinese officials and with President Jiang Zemin, to secure the release of at least 12 journalists jailed in China "simply because they did their work honestly, or expressed opinions peacefully".

The appeal draws attention in particular to the case of Gao Yu, who was arrested on 2 October 1993 and who is serving a six-year prison sentence for having revealed "state secrets to people outside China", the appeal said.

RsF said it had information that she has life-threatening heart problems and that the only drugs she was allowed were those brought by relatives on monthly visits.

The organisation calls on President Clinton to do everything in his power to persuade the Chinese authorities, as they have undertaken to do, to sign and ratify the UN Declaration on Human Rights, Article 19, which states that: "Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference."



Alatas: offer of dialogue

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Sub accident humiliates N Korea

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

BY ANY standards, it was a humiliation. Late on Monday afternoon, 11 miles off the coast of South Korea, a midget submarine belonging to the North Korean navy ran into serious difficulties.

It may have drifted off course into enemy waters. More likely it was on a clandestine mission, picking up or depositing one of the spies who are believed to regularly infiltrate the South.

Either way, its mission was never accomplished. As the submarine attempted to surface, its periscope and propeller became hopelessly tangled in the nets of a South Korean trawler.

After the fishermen raised the alarm, South Korean helicopters, spotter planes and war-

ships were quickly on the scene.

Last night, after being towed all day through the Sea of Japan, the 70-ton, Yugo-class sub was brought to land at the port of Tonghae, where it slowly sank in 100ft of water. Sonar scans of the vessel's hull detected no signs of movement, although such submarines typically carry a complement of six to 10 people.

"It probably means that the inside is filled with water and that the crew perhaps drowned or suffocated due to lack of oxygen," said Major General Lim Jong Chun of the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff. "The crew may have escaped before the navy was called".

Unconfirmed reports said

that a large bang was heard coming from the vessel as it was being towed, suggesting that the occupants may even have blown themselves up.

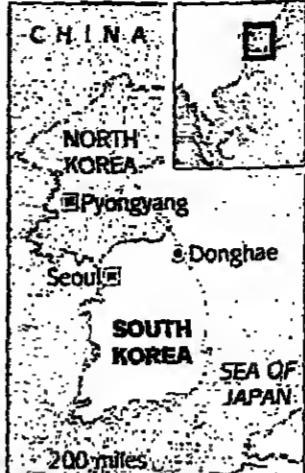
For a country like North Korea, whose official propaganda boasts endlessly of its military might, this would be bad enough in itself, but it is not an isolated event.

In September 1996, in the same area of sea and coastline, a larger submarine ran aground, leaving its crew stranded. The massive manhunt that ensued left 24 North Koreans and 13 southerners dead. Relations between the two countries remained tense for months.

But things have changed since then. In a sign of the new maturity in inter-Korean rela-



North Koreans at yesterday's UN talks: Yun Suk-bong



tions, both sides appeared concerned to play down the latest incident.

North Korean radio, which usually misses no opportunity

to execute the Seoul government's fate in unusually calm and detailed terms. The submarine was "wrecked while in training"

after experiencing problems with its observation and surface systems, it said.

In the South, a stern Major General Lim said: "The fact

that the submarine infiltrated across our coastal sea areas is a clear armed provocation and a violation of the armistice agreement." But a spokesman for the South Korean president, Kim Dae Jung, whose "sunshine policy" of tolerance and engagement has improved relations since his inauguration in February, was more conciliatory.

"The submarine incident will not shake our sunshine policy," he said. "The government will try even harder to embrace the North ... with patience."

In other ways, yesterday was a bright day in inter-Korean relations. For the first time in seven years, British, American and South Korean army officers representing the United Nations held talks with their

North Korean counterparts in the demilitarised zone (DMZ) between the two countries.

Meanwhile, South Korea's most famous businessman, Chung Ju Yung, the founder of Hyundai, returned to the South after an eight-day visit during which he presented the famine-stricken North with a gift of 500 cattle and reached an agreement to promote tourism from South to North.

Only relatively small numbers of troops appear to have been mobilised to deal with the submarine - in contrast to 1996 when the then South Korean president, Kim Young Sam, dispatched 60,000 soldiers and police to hunt down the escaped crew members and put parts of the country on a virtual war footing.

Last days of jumbos in Hong Kong

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

and it will no doubt create a more efficient, state-of-the-art airport.

But it will also mean the end of an era not just for those taking planes but for the many Hong Kong people who used to climb to the top of the crumbling tenements in Kowloon City, where the airport is situated, to get a fantastic view of the planes at close range.

Some shops in the area offered visits to the rooftops as one of the main shopping attractions, gambling on the hope that plane spotters would buy something on the way down.

A great many other Hong Kong people have another strong reason to feel nostalgic about the loss of the airport. Until a decade ago the departure hall was filled with school students diligently doing their homework. No one had invited them there, but the good lighting and air conditioning hired these students from poor families living in cramped and noisy flats. The airport was far from ideal as a study centre but infinitely preferable to their homes.

Finally the authorities decided the children had to go. They were worried that they were giving Hong Kong a bad image.

Strangely, the bureaucrats could not see that the determination and application of these children was giving Hong Kong the best possible image. They demonstrated the will to succeed despite poor circumstances and showed the sense of initiative and opportunism which has made the place flourish.

The people of Hong Kong will have to trek to the island of Chek Lap Kok, north of Lantau, to reach their new airport. Designed by British architects Foster and Partners, it will be the world's largest airport, handling about 35 million passengers a year. It will become operational on 6 July.

The crowds packing into Kai Tak for a last look are expected to peak this weekend. Thanks to the spirit of entrepreneurship which permeates Hong Kong there will be plenty of souvenir offers and special events at nearby eating places to ensure that the last huk is made out of Kai Tak.



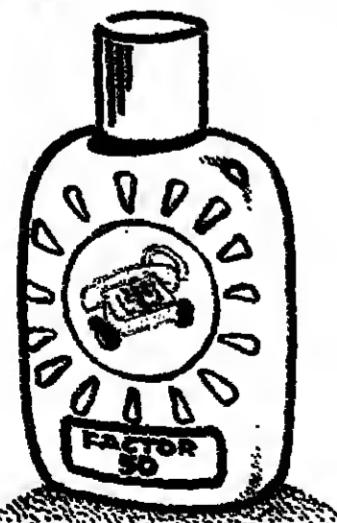
A jumbo flies through the housing estates into Kai Tak airport. The new airport opens on 6 July

CLARE SHORT

While the purpose of sanctions is to push governments into better behaviour, it is innocent civilians who bear the cost'

—THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4 →

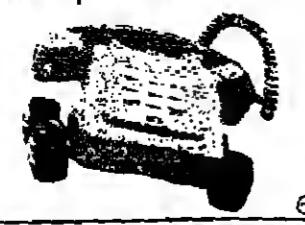
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Microsoft appeal victory

THE US government suffered a major legal defeat in its campaign against Microsoft yesterday.

An appeal court ruled that Microsoft was quite within its rights to combine its Internet browser with its operating system, the key issue in the government's competition case against Bill Gates' software giant.

Microsoft's enemies argue that it is using its dominance of the market for operating systems - the basic software that makes the hardware in computers work together - to build a dominant position in Internet software. Browsers are the basic software that allows computer users to use the Internet, and Microsoft has slowly edged its rivals, like Netscape, out of the market.

A lower court had granted an

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

injunction against Microsoft, which is set to be heard in September.

The Appeals Court ruling cuts away the ground from under the government. It comes at a propitious time for Microsoft, which this week will release Windows 98, its latest operating system. The main selling point of the new product is that it integrates the computer with the Internet even more tightly.

Though the latest judgement overturns the injunction, it does not prevent the Justice Department from proceeding with its effort to dislodge Microsoft from its position of dominance. Effectively, it throws the case back to the judge who will hear the larger case.

But by undermining the key argument, it will make the

government's proposition even more difficult to argue, and will increase criticism from business that the Justice Department has overreached itself.

The court said that the second, larger case might supersede the narrower issue upon which it had been asked to rule.

It said that the Justice Department "may well regard further pursuit of this case as unpromising, especially given the alternative avenues developing in its recently launched separate attacks on Microsoft's practices."

Whatever the legal niceties, Wall Street clearly thought the judgement was good news for Bill Gates. Microsoft's stock price, which has suffered as the government has assembled its case against the company, leapt by more than three points.

Psychiatrist's call ends plane hijack

BY ELIZABETH NASH
in Madrid

sives were later found on board.

The crisis ended when Mr Gomez was persuaded to take a mobile telephone call from his psychiatrist, Ildefonso Mateo, in Seville. "After talking to him for four minutes, he softened and the situation was resolved."

Dr Mateo later told Spanish television. Among the passengers was the Mayor of Seville, Soledad Becerril, en route to Lucerne in Switzerland.

The Israeli ambassador to Spain, Ehud Gol, said Mr Gomez first demanded to fly to Athens, then changed his mind to Tel Aviv. The Israeli authorities had said they would not allow the plane to land on their territory.



Mandela: fair redistribution key to peace Tom Pilston

Mandela calls for land reform

SOUTH AFRICA'S President Nelson Mandela warned yesterday that only a fair redistribution of land to its former black owners would guarantee peace as the country emerged from apartheid minority rule.

Mr Mandela was speaking at an emotional ceremony in this sleepy town in the volatile KwaZulu-Natal province, held to mark the handing back of more than 600,000 hectares of land to former black owners.

Mr Mandela, who became president in 1994 in the country's first democratic elections, said the Land Reform Programme that his government had enacted in its first year in power would help right the wrongs of the past.

"Our land reform programme helps redress the injustices of apartheid. It fosters national reconciliation

BY BUCHIZIWA MSETEKA
in Ladysmith

and stability," he told a gathering, which included the Zulu King, Goodwill Zwelithini. "It also underpins economic growth and improved household welfare and food security," he added.

The ceremony involved handing back land to about 85 black households, whose land was expropriated by whites during the apartheid era. Up to 26 of the beneficiaries were black women.

Mr Mandela said that his government's land reform, which involved negotiations between the victims of apartheid and the whites who still own most of South Africa's best land, would help create stability by raising living standards.

"The progress we are making in land reform is matched in our efforts to address the poverty that apartheid created," he said.

South Africa's land reform programme contrasts sharply with that of neighbouring Zimbabwe where the government of President Robert Mugabe has given notice that it will expropriate land from white owners without any compensation.

In South Africa, land redistribution is done through the Restitution of Land Rights Act enacted in 1994. This involves buying back land at market value after negotiations between former black owners and white farmers.

Land ownership is one of the most emotive issues in South Africa, where whites make up 13 per cent of the population but control over 70 per cent of the land.

South Africa's parliament passed legislation soon after the first all-race election in 1994 giving thousands of blacks stripped of their land under decades of apartheid three years to claim it back.

About 23,000 cases have already been lodged with the commission, which is overseeing the restitution of land rights.

Statistics show that up to 400,000 hectares of land have been redistributed back to almost a quarter of a million former black owners.

But the scheme has its critics, who say land redistribution is not moving fast enough and say the government programme must be speeded up if South Africa is to avoid Zimbabwe's problems.

Ground-breaking land tenure protection to shield black farmworkers from arbitrary eviction by landowners also became law in South Africa in November last year. The farmworkers, who are mostly black, have been one of the most disadvantaged sectors in the country.

When she was told she had to pay £1,000 for extra luggage, she said she had only one-third of the money. After arriving in South Africa, she fired off a letter to the airline, saying she had been travelling first-class on a diplomatic passport and had expected better treatment.

After opposition politicians asked why she had such a diplomatic passport the government said Ms Madikizela-Mandela was no longer entitled to such a privilege. It had been issued to her when she was a minister, a post she lost three years ago.



Two elderly Romanian women help each other on the main street of the flooded Tîrnăveni city, 350 kms north of Bucharest. The north-western area of Romania was declared an emergency zone, with up to 15,000 acres of arable land under water. More than 1,000 people have been evacuated AP/Robert Ghement

No let-up in UK arms sales abroad

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

BRITAIN GRANTED 2,181 licences for the export of arms to "countries of concern" and refused only 24 during the Labour's first year in power - a period which saw a new and supposedly tighter code of conduct for sales of British-made arms abroad.

The data, compiled by the Saferworld research group, on the basis of Department of Trade and Industry statistics, appears one month before publication by the Government of a promised first official annual report on international arms sales. So loosely defined are the DTI categories that a firm conclusion may be drawn. But the figures do not make reassuring reading.

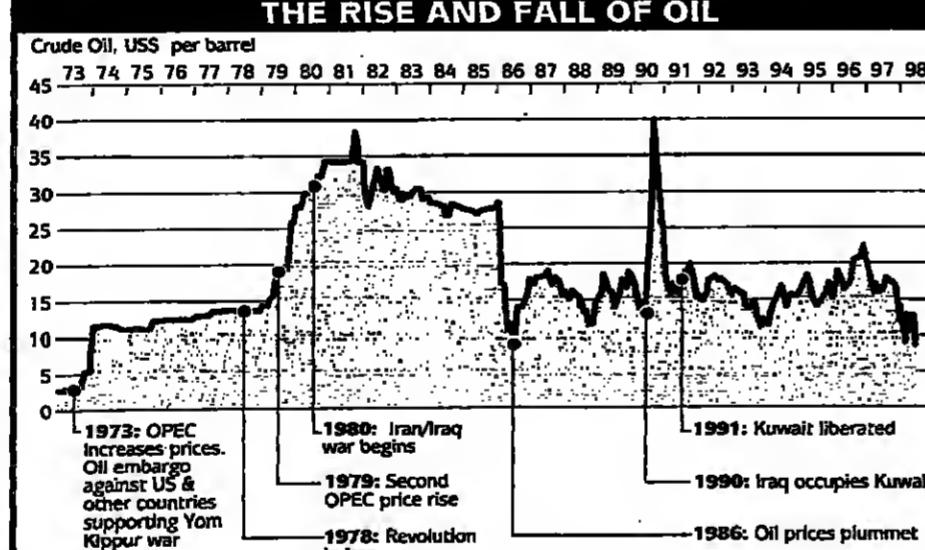
Among 35 listed countries at or near war, or with dubious human rights records, China was granted 36 licences, even though an EU arms embargo has been in force since 1989. "A flood of licences" has gone through for India and Pakistan, and several more for Eritrea, currently fighting a border war with Ethiopia.

Indonesia, Kenya, Syria and Turkey were among countries granted licences covering categories including small arms and machine guns, despite the new British guidelines banning such exports where there is a "clearly identifiable risk they could be used for internal repression". Fifteen licences were allowed for Indonesia alone between March and May 1998.

Saferworld acknowledges that the data does not prove Britain has breached its own guidelines, part of the vaunted "ethical foreign policy".

But, it warns, exactly that impression is created by the lack of transparency in the figures. Clear and precise information in the annual report was essential. If not "public debate will be based on suspicion, not fact".

Oil states struggle to save their spoils



MINISTERS FROM the 11-member nations of the Organisation of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) meet today in Vienna to try to avert the crisis for oil-producing countries caused by tumbling oil prices.

By setting production quotas for its members, Opec tries to manipulate the price of oil, but has found itself increasingly impotent in the oil market of late.

It is far from being the all-powerful cartel it was in the 1970s. A huge increase in production, the Asian economic collapse and the organisation's own inability to hang together has meant that member states are at each others' throats. If they cannot agree to cut production, a further slump in the price seems inevitable.

For Britain, which exports oil but is also an industrial nation, oil price decline is not a concern. For Asia and the US, it will keep inflation low and boost industry. But it could produce social and political chaos around the world, especially in Latin America and the Middle East.

Russia's income from oil has declined by a third. Even mighty Saudi Arabia is facing

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

severe budgetary pressures, and has borrowed \$2bn from banks. In the good years, surging oil revenues were used to build up welfare states that are now hard to finance.

Opec made a critical error of tactics last November. To take account of existing over-production by its members, it decided to increase quotas. The market took that as a signal and prices slid.

A warm winter, the onset of the Asian crisis and fears that Iraq would re-enter the market made things worse. Since then, oil prices have slid from around \$19 a barrel to benchmark Brent crude to around \$14 a barrel. Taking account of inflation and the changing value of the dollar, oil is cheaper than it was in 1973 when Opec made its first effective thrust for market dominance.

The presence of non-Opec states at the meeting - Russia, Oman, Norway and Mexico - along with the Riyadh Pact may be a signal that a new cartel is assembling. But Norway is set on maintaining its current levels of production. And the credibility of Opec, once an irresistible force, is at an all-time low. It will take an act of rare unity to convince world markets that Opec's once-fabled strength has returned.

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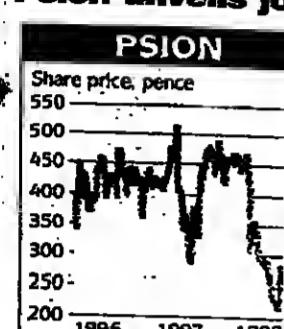
Nissan to sell truck makers

NISSAN MOTOR, Japan's second-largest car maker, could sell its truckmaking division to German rival Daimler-Benz in an attempt to trim its large debt.

The company said yesterday that it was planning to reach agreement with Daimler-Benz as early as July on areas of cooperation that could include the sale of Nissan Diesel Motor Co, Japan's fourth-largest truckmaker.

Nissan holds an industry-high Y2.5 trillion in interest-bearing debt and plans to trim Y1 trillion in debt by March 2001.

Psion unveils joint venture



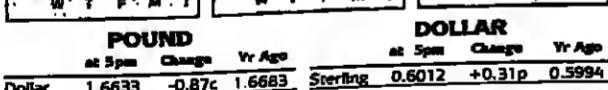
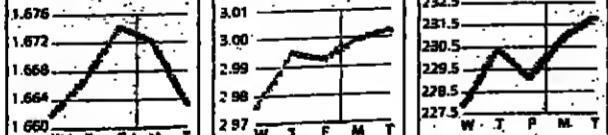
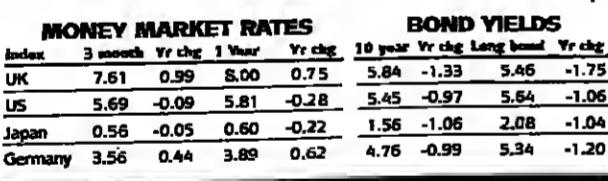
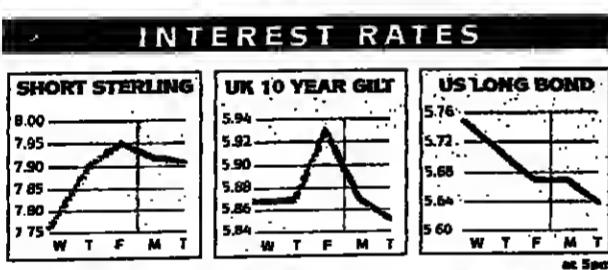
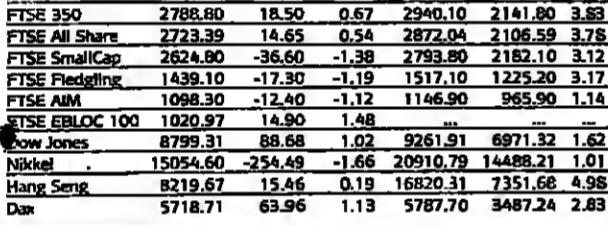
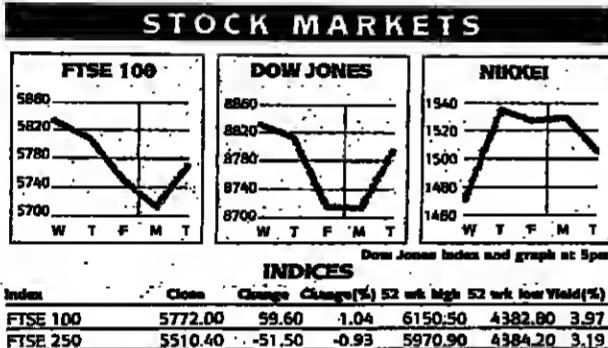
PSION, THE personal organiser manufacturer, is today expected to unveil a joint venture which involves the licensing of its operating system. The group yesterday announced that it was in "advanced discussions" about the creation of a joint venture in the field of Wireless Information Services. However, it refused to elaborate on the statement, which it was forced to make after its share price had risen rapidly. Psion has already signed up two unnamed licensees for its operating software, which is known as EPOC32. The group's shares, which have fallen sharply in recent months, were unchanged at 281p.

GWR and allies set to go digital

GWR GROUP and its allies Talk Radio and cable company NTL looked set to launch the UK's first national commercial digital radio stations next year after their group emerged yesterday as the sole bidder for the radio licence.

The GWR-led Digital One consortium had been widely expected to be the only bidder for the 12-year licence as potential rivals have opted instead to target regional and local permits. Those offerings will include GWR's Classic FM station, as well as Talk Radio and Virgin Radio, plus seven new channels ranging from plays, books and comedy offering to an all-night club dance station.

Britain's Radio Authority plans to award the permit in September. The Digital One partners said they have invested a total of about £10m in the consortium, which will launch its services officially in October 1999.



Orange slashes call costs and adds new offers

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

ORANGE YESTERDAY fired another salvo in the increasingly hostile mobile phone price war by slashing the cost of its off-peak calls and launching a range of other offers to attract new users.

From next month, Orange users will pay just 5p a minute for off-peak calls, a cut of up to two-thirds on current rates.

The move is an aggressive response to recent price cuts introduced by Vodafone and

Cellnet, the UK's two largest operators.

Hans Snook, Orange's chief executive, said the initiative was designed to clear up the confusion among consumers about call rates. "The message is simple: don't worry," he said.

Orange shares soared by almost 10 per cent as the company said that its customer

base to the end of May had grown by a net 20 per cent on the previous year. The shares hit a new high of 608p, up 54p.

However, analysts said they found the market's enthusiasm hard to justify. They pointed out that although the price cuts would stimulate usage, Orange's revenues per user

were still likely to fall. "They're

taking a bet that they will attract more new customers," said one analyst.

Later this year, Orange plans to launch a new service which will compete with fixed telecom lines. Known as Daily Talk, the service will offer subscribers 20 minutes of off-peak calls per day for just 50p. Meanwhile, the company plans to

introduce mobile video phones within the next 18 months.

Mr Snook said he expected mobile phone penetration to rise to 50 per cent of the population by the 2004 from 18 per cent today. He added that, within the next 10 years, 90 per cent of mainstream communications would take place on a wireless network.

Foreign holidays put UK trade in the red

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

Neville Isdell, chairman and chief executive of Coca-Cola Beverages, and Craig Owens (facing camera) finance director. The company is heading for the London stock market with a price tag of up to £1.7bn on 13 July. Demerged from Australia-based Coca-Cola Armatil, the company produced pre-tax profits of £5.8m last year, compared with £14.2m last time.

Andrew Burnham

BNFL to buy US nuclear reprocessor in \$1bn deal

BY ANDREW MARSHALL AND TERRY MACALISTER

BRITISH NUCLEAR Fuels is buying a major part of CBS Westinghouse for around \$1bn, making the UK state-owned group the biggest nuclear reprocessor in the world.

The move, which will be announced in London this morning, is being seen as a possible precursor to privatisation under a New Labour government which has overcome initial shyness about the sale of state assets.

BNFL has beaten off strong competition to win control of the nuclear side of the US company CBS Westinghouse for a price believed to be around \$360m.

But the British company will also take on a part of the Westinghouse liabilities, making the deal worth \$1bn in total.

It will make BNFL one of the largest British employers in America. It has built up a significant subsidiary in the US

group, and Framatome, the French nuclear giant.

Though there are no regulatory implications in the US beyond the normal requirements of antitrust law, it will imply renewing agreements with the US Department of Defense and Westinghouse's largest customers, as well as other commercial nuclear operators.

BNFL will, by taking on Westinghouse, become a key supplier to the US government. Westinghouse manages facilities for tritium production for the US weapons programme, and handles spent nuclear fuel and dismantled nuclear weapons from the US navy.

BNFL has built up a significant business in the US since it established its own operating subsidiary, BNFL Inc, in 1990. The Washington-based company now holds contracts worth

\$2bn, mainly to clean up and manage old nuclear weapons sites, like the one at Savannah River in South Carolina.

BNFL's US success, built on expertise established in the UK, has helped swell the group's turnover in 1997 to \$116m on sales of £12bn.

Globalising BNFL and making it a key player in the US market, the transaction raises big questions about its continued ownership by the British government, corporate sources in America say. It may lead to changes in the structure of ownership, if not all-out privatisation.

Westinghouse Electric Company has 24,000 employees around the world, a substantial increase in BNFL's already important overseas activities. It supplies new plant design, services, fuel and instrumentation and control technologies for 400 plants around the world.

Galen plans deal to triple its size

BY TERRY MACALISTER

SHARES WERE suspended yesterday in Galen Holdings after the Northern Ireland-based company unveiled ambitious proposals to triple its size through a reverse takeover of the privately-owned Ferring Pharmaceuticals.

The move underlines the growing ambitions of Galen's founder, Dr Allen McCay, a former Glaxo salesman who established the Craigavon company in 1968 and still owns a 30 per cent stake.

It also reflects pressures inside the pharmaceutical sector

which has been alive with merger and acquisition activity topped by the recently failed Glaxo Wellcome/SmithKline Beecham tie-up.

Galen management said the Ferring merger would bring considerable synergies but stressed it was driven by prospects for growth, not cost-cutting.

John King, chief executive of Galen, said: "This will bring Galen a strong marketing network in Europe. But there will

be equal opportunities in reverse for Ferring."

Galen shares were suspended at 437.5p yesterday, up from last year's flotation price of 150p. The two companies said they hoped to conclude merger arrangements by the end of the year.

Some shares in the proposed new venture will inevitably find themselves coming on to the market to ensure 25 per cent of the combined ownership is in public hands.

Ferring, Paris-based but privately owned by the Poulsen

family in Holland, is by far the larger of the two companies with manufacturing plants in Scandinavia and Germany and 1,700 employees. Its estimated capitalisation is around £1bn.

Galen employs barely 700 staff but has shown prodigious growth since it was established in late 1988. It is poised to unveil interim profits of around £7.3m tomorrow.

Its best selling product is the pain-killing analgesic, Kapake but it has a range of treatments for gastro-intestinal and other ailments.

However, it adds: "Currently it is very difficult to judge the strength of underlying inflationary pressures and how quickly the economy will eventually slow." It predicts a pickup in inflation alongside the slowdown in growth due to weaker exports.

Yesterday's official figures confirmed that the strong pound is harming exports.

Recent figures for earnings, retail prices and retail sales have all added to the fear that the Bank will feel forced to move because of inflationary pressures, even though the economy is now slowing.

The OECD report warns that a slowdown will have knock-on consequences. Rising unemployment could lead to a "ballooning" cost for the Government's welfare-to-work programme.

Ensuring a smooth landing is crucial to the success of these measures, it warns.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

NEW YORK

TOKYO

FRANCE

RUSSIA

LEADING SHARES enjoyed some sharp gains. Footsie ended near its day's high with a 5.6 points gain to 5,772. But it was a market of two halves as many second and third-line shares continued their ragged retreat from their recent peaks.

Telephone shares led the blue-chip charge. BT, in busy trading, surged 3.7p to 741p (after 735p) as rumours continued to circulate that an alliance, perhaps even a full-scale merger, was being lined up with the American AT&T group.

THE US stock market rose yesterday, hit by a wave of scepticism over the Tokyo government's promises of a plan to kick-start the country's ailing economy.

The Nikkei 225 index fell 254.49 points, or 1.66 per cent, to 15,054.60.

The broader Topix index was down 1 per cent to 1175.42.

Construction and real estate companies led the fall on the back of concerns over flagging domestic demand.

THE JAPANESE stock market fell yesterday, hit by a wave of scepticism over the Tokyo government's promises of a plan to kick-start the country's ailing economy.

The benchmark CAC 40 index rose 46.40 points, or 1.2 per cent, to 3,665.04, partly erasing its 1.8 per cent fall over three sessions.

Promodes, France's second-biggest food retailer, rose Ffr144 (4.6 per cent) to a record Ffr3,275 ahead of tomorrow's consumer spending figures.

RUSSIAN STOCKS closed little changed as dealers remained on the sidelines amid worry that the government's economic stimulus package will not be enough to win a \$15bn bailout package from the International Monetary Fund. The benchmark Russian Trading System index rose to 172.61 from 172.37.

The government package, presented to parliament yesterday by President Boris Yeltsin, includes spending cuts and a pledge to increase tax revenue.



The City puts £20bn into the UK economy each year, and rival European markets want to exploit the post-EMU action. But the City's future is not as bleak as some predict

THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 24 June 1998

IN BRIEF

Kingfisher buys French outlet

KINGFISHER, the retail group which owns B&Q and Woolworths, yesterday took control of French furniture and electrical retailer BUT by buying an additional 36 per cent from the founding Venturi family for £103m. It now controls 61 per cent.

Gene purchase

CAMBRIDGE Antibody Technology, the gene screening group, yesterday bought Apten Inc, a US technology company, for up to £11m in shares.

Green fund

NPI ASSET Management yesterday launched the Global Care Asia Pacific Fund, the first fund to invest only in South-east Asian companies which meet strict environmental and social criteria.

Payment times

BARBARA ROCHE, the minister for small firms, announced that Companies House would be contacting companies that are not disclosing in their accounts the average time they take to pay suppliers. The move follows research by Dun & Bradstreet showing that more than half the UK's top firms may be breaking the law by not complying with government regulations.

Less of leisure

FIRST LEISURE shares plunged 35.5p to 73.5p yesterday after the leisure group warned that consumer demand had fallen in the first few weeks of its second half. In the first half, pre-tax profits before asset sales grew 10 per cent to £13.2m on sales of £114.8m, up 29 per cent.

Game sales up

SALES AT video game seller Electronics Boutique rose an annualised 31 per cent in the first 20 weeks of the year, while like-for-like sales up 11 per cent.

Research stake

FIMALAC Communications, part of French group Centraire Blaize, yesterday put its 10 per cent stake in market research group Taylor Nelson Sofres up for sale. The stake is worth £27.5m.

Hartstone sells

HARTSTONE, the leather goods and hosiery maker, yesterday sold its Spanish hosiery division Marie Claire to venture capital group Dinamia for £25.2m.

Salomon grows

SALOMON SMITH Barney, the US investment bank, yesterday bought the Australian funds management operations of rival J.P. Morgan.

Japan debt risk

FTCH IBCA, the credit rating agency, said that the downturn in the Japanese economy and the weakening of the yen could put the country's sovereign AAA debt rating at risk.

Don't write off the City just yet

By LEA PATERSON

LONDON'S STOCK Exchange under pressure, London's futures and options exchange losing market share, the UK sitting out the first wave of EMU – are the days of the City of London numbered?

If all the recent rhetoric in the press is to be believed, dealers in the City might as well pack up and go home. First of all, we had apocalyptic predictions of the job losses that EMU would cause. Then there

was the fuss about Liffe – London's futures and options exchange – which first managed to lose the bulk of trade in the bond – the German government bond future to the Frankfurt-based Deutsche Terminbörse (DTB), and is now, for the first time, facing competition for UK gilt future trade. Most recently, London's Stock Exchange was put in the spotlight when Nasdaq, the US's number two exchange, said it was talking to the DTB and political pressure from the Bundesbank.

Last week Matif, the French futures exchange, announced plans to challenge Liffe's monopoly in the gilt future. The DTB is also expected to join the fray soon. Given Liffe's spectacular failure to hold on to its bond market share, some in the City were gloomy about its chances of success in a three-way battle for the gilt future. Others, though, were less hasty to write off Liffe's chances.

It is undoubtedly the case that, if the City were to lose its place as Europe's leading financial centre, there would be wide-ranging implications for the rest of the UK economy. According to the Corporation of London: "The City of London

News Analysis: London can fend off attacks on its financial leadership

puts around £20bn each year into the UK economy. If the City were to fail – or even momentarily stall – the whole country would be affected." A report published last week by the Centre for Economics and Business Research predicted that 116,000 European jobs could go if the City of London were to falter.

But is the City's future as bleak as some of the pundits like to make out?

Take Liffe first. Liffe has managed to lose the bulk of the trade in the bond – the German government bond future – to the DTB, through a combination of managerial errors, a reluctance to adopt electronic trading, aggressive marketing by the DTB and political pressure from the Bundesbank.

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Ed Condon, head of European listed derivatives at Credit Suisse First Boston, is among the optimists. He said: "Liffe has a 100 per cent share of the gilt. The other exchanges will need to do something completely different to persuade people to switch."

Matif and the DTB are hoping that their electronic trading system will make the difference. Liffe's new electronic system is not due to come on line until early next year. But Mr Condon believes that national factors are likely to come into play. He said: "In the case of the bond, the Bundesbank brought pressure to bear on the German

banks. The Bank of England will not be sympathetic to losing the gilt contract to Frankfurt, and could bring its influence to bear."

Liffe, unsurprisingly, is tight-lipped about its relationship with the Bank of England. One City source chucked: "Liffe is incredibly sensitive about its relationship with the Bank. You'll never get them talking publicly about it."

Liffe is not the only City institution facing competitive pressure from abroad. On Monday evening, Nasdaq and the Deutsche Börse admitted they were in talks. Nasdaq said the two "had agreed to set up a

working group to explore common transatlantic business opportunities. It's part of the strategy of the Deutsche Börse and Nasdaq to develop co-operation and alliances with important stock exchanges". Some were quick to construe this as a competitive assault on the London Stock Exchange (LSE). Others in the City, though, believe the position of the LSE is relatively safe, for the time being at least.

One City source, who declined to be named, explained that the position of the Stock Exchange was quite different to that of Liffe. In the case of Liffe, she said, rival

exchanges can unilaterally decide to, say, launch a gilt contract, and then persuade the traders to use their dealing system rather than Liffe's. The source said: "In practice, for Nasdaq and the Deutsche Börse to win substantial market share from the Stock Exchange, they would have to persuade UK-based companies that they would do better listing on a foreign stock exchange rather than in London. I think national factors are just too strong."

Many traders believe that the most likely casualty of a Nasdaq/Deutsche Börse link would be Easdaq, the European version of Nasdaq, which focuses on European growth stocks. One said: "To be frank, Easdaq hasn't been as successful as we'd all hoped. If Nasdaq and Deutsche Börse join forces, or perhaps launch a pan-European product, it's Easdaq which has the most to lose."

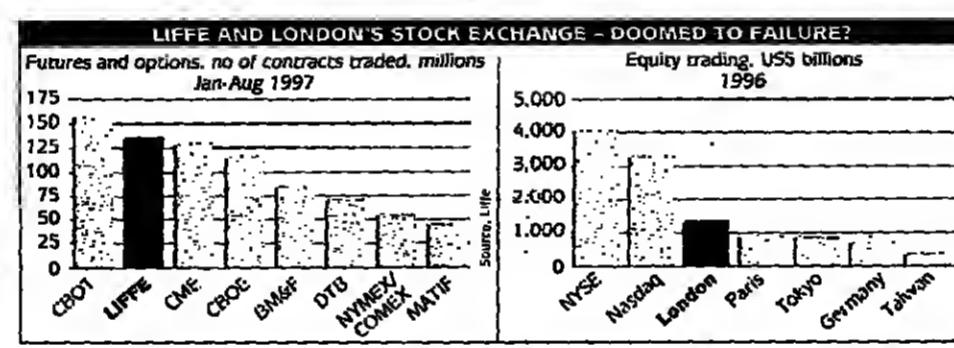
Others in the City say it is over-simplistic to view recent market developments as a European assault on the City of London, and point out that all exchanges are struggling to cope with intense competitive

pressures. Nasdaq is locked in a fierce battle for market share with the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). Deutsche Börse has other regional exchanges to contend with. All exchanges are having to come to terms with the impact of technological change as well as the disappearance of most of the major European currencies after EMU.

One source close to the London exchanges said: "I can see a post-EMU world where exchanges specialise. You may have a series of national exchanges catering almost exclusively for national companies. You then could have one, or maybe two, pan-European or global exchanges catering for large multinationals."

Others City figures have talked about the possibility of increased co-operation between Liffe and the LSE, saying that once Liffe is fully electronic there will be greater synergies between the two exchanges.

The advent of the euro, and perhaps more importantly, the unrelenting pace of technological change, means that the City will never be the same again. But it is equally true to say that the future is not quite as bleak as some like to believe.



Selfridges down ahead of flotation

By NIGEL COPE

Associate City Editor

shareholders that are pushing for it."

Selfridges figures showed that in the first 19 weeks of the year its sales were down by 4 per cent on the same period last year. It blamed high discounting in the end-of-season sales and the refurbishment of the store.

His comments accompanied poor figures from Sears, which said it will continue with plans to demerge its Freeman's mail order business. Freemans reported a slowdown in sales growth to 12 per cent in the first 19 weeks due to the strength of sterling and higher discounting.

At Sears' clothing stores, which include Wallis and Miss Selfridges, sales were flat on last year though margins were better.

The demerger of Selfridges will be put to shareholders at its annual meeting on 17 July, with Selfridges expected to start trading on 20 July. Before the demerger there will be a 1-for-10 share consolidation.

Tony Shiret, retail analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston, said Selfridges would be valued at around £400m on demerger, worth around 25p per share (or 25p on the day of the consolidation). The rump of Sears would be worth 30-35p. Sears shares closed 4.75p lower at 55.75p.

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CARPETRIGHT, Britain's largest carpet retailer, signalled further problems in the durable goods market yesterday when it reported lower-than-expected profits and warned of a difficult year ahead.

Lord Harris, Carpetright's chairman, said the carpet market was "the worst I've seen in my 40 years in the industry". Carpet sales collapsed after Christmas, he said, with the market down by more than 20 per cent.

Carpetright shares fell 13 per cent to 274.5p, their lowest level for four years. The poor figures dragged down shares in other

BY NIGEL COPE

durable goods retailers, with MFI, DFS and Courts all seeing sharp falls.

Analysts blamed the weak market on rising interest rates deterring consumers from buying higher-ticket items. Job insecurity, particularly in the North, is also putting people off committing themselves to longer-term credit, they said.

Others said Carpetright may be a victim of changing fashions in floor coverings as increasing numbers prefer stripped wood floors to carpets. But this was dismissed by Lord Harris. "I can tell you that is not true. The wood market is rising and we are going into it in a small way, but it is still a tiny proportion of the whole market."

He was speaking as Carpetright reported a fall in full year pre-tax profits from £22m to £23m last year.

The company was hit by a steep rise in its cost base as well as weaker sales, which were flat on a same-store basis over the year. The company has now scaled back its expansion plans and is aiming for a total of 350 stores instead of the previously planned 450.

Investment column, page 21

Carpetright sales collapse

BY NIGEL COPE

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Investment column, page 21

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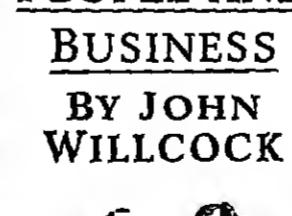
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Another poor result for Grade

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



management did themselves no favours, however, by mentioning they had sponsored a stadium in Bucharest to help Romanian fans watch and celebrate their national team's victory over England.

Sell-off is the way forward for BNFL

FEW PEOPLE thought it possible to privatise British Energy when the idea of selling off the country's nuclear generating capacity was first floated, and yet it was done and the company has proved a fabulous investment. So, in theory, there's no reason the Government shouldn't do the same with British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL), which produces and reprocesses the raw material for nuclear power.

Certainly that was the idea under the previous administration. Despite their new found acceptance of many of the central theologies of the Thatcher years, quite a few of the new lot still have a bit of a problem with the idea of privatisation, particularly when it comes to the sort of business BNFL is in.

This is silly. What BNFL does is highly sensitive and there's no doubt that it is a dirty business many ethical investors won't want to touch. Today's acquisition of Westinghouse's nuclear reprocessing plants and related businesses in the US, nonetheless demonstrates both that it is possible to have private ownership of such assets and that this has become a truly global business perhaps best managed by a global enterprise.



OUTLOOK

There is every reason why BNFL should be doing this deal – for a start, it gains access to a US customer base to add to its existing UK and Japanese ones – but there is no reason why the British taxpayer should be helping to fund such an expansion. As a state owned industry, BNFL forms part of the public finances and this purchase will presumably therefore have some, if only a minor, impact on them.

Politically the Labour Government might still find it difficult to sell the idea of a stock-market flotation of BNFL to its backbenchers. The idea of selling off the Post Office is already causing a bumbling of a

row between the Chancellor and the Prime Minister. But full privatisation must be the end game, even if it takes a few years yet to arrive.

One runner in digital radio race

COMMERCIAL RADIO has always been the poor relation of commercial TV and no more so than in the race to turn digital. Not only are the numbers much smaller than with digital TV, but there's a real fear that digital radio isn't a commercial proposition.

Part of the reason for this is the very high cost of digital receivers, which at present can be as much as £1,000 per set. While this might be passed off as a hidden extra in the cost of top of the line luxury cars, few ordinary radio purchasers are going to think the price worth the better quality sound. This is especially the case if digital fails to offer much in the way of enhanced service over what is already on offer with analogue radio.

All the same, it was perhaps somewhat disappointing to find that when the deadline came yesterday for submitting final proposals to the Radio Authority for the licence for

digital radio, there was just one bidder; the only rival having dropped by the wayside some while back. Furthermore, the bidder's reasons for submitting a proposal at all seem to be mostly defensive. The bidder is a consortium of GWR, which owns Classic FM, Talk Radio and the cable operator NTL.

The two national radio stations involved get automatic renewal of their licences when they come up for review in the year 2000 if they bankroll the advance into digital, so they have an obvious incentive to fund the proposal regardless of whether they think it commercially viable. To be fair on the bidder, this is not an entirely spurious proposal. The consortium has come up with some genuine innovations to support its bid, including a dedicated sports channel. Even so, the suspicion must be that it has done the bare minimum to ensure it passes the Radio Authority's various quality of service thresholds.

The Government is keen to push ahead with the development of digital radio as quickly as possible. Britain leads the world in developing digital TV and ministers want us to do the same in radio. Furthermore, the BBC is independently already

making the necessary investment regardless of the fact that there are so few sets out there that can receive the service. To boot, the timing of the licence renewal for Classic FM has the effect of tying the authorities into an early decision on digital radio.

Nonetheless, the Radio Authority might give serious consideration to turning this bid down so as to allow for the development of credible alternative proposals. A one-contestant race is no good to anyone. By awarding the licence now before developments in technology allow for steep reductions in the costs of digital sets and the full commercial potential of digital radio becomes apparent, the Radio Authority will be guaranteeing that the new platform is dominated by present national radio incumbents, rather than the way the BBC has with digital TV. This cannot be the best way forward for a service multiple possibilities.

Time pundits took a holiday

THERE HAS been no excuse for not taking a winter sun holiday or pleasant skiing trip this year. The

Thai baht is at a ridiculously low level against the pound, and the strength of the pound against the French franc has made even the Alps look affordable. Many of us still have money from the building society windfalls stashed away, and the lucky City few banked bumper bonuses this year. It should therefore be no surprise that we splashed out nearly £5bn on foreign trips in the first three months of this year. Judging by the number of Brits doing their own Tour de France for the World Cup this month, it will be even higher in the second quarter.

The interesting question is whether this reflects strength or weakness in the economy. It certainly suggests that British consumers feel happy and wealthy even if that is not justified by the reality. Separate figures yesterday showed that consumer spending at home was still growing nearly 5 per cent in year-on-year terms.

Yet the shock balance of payments figures have given pessimists about growth prospects extra ammunition. Apart from our rocketing spending on travel abroad, investment income from the Far East was down and so were exports of goods.

Two sets of evidence, two sets of pundits. One lot is full of gloomy warnings about recession, the others predicting inflation pressures will force the Bank of England to raise interest rates again. After all, the target measure of inflation could soon hit the 3.5 per cent barrier that will force Eddie George to write an open letter of explanation to the Chancellor.

The truth is that the economy has reached a stage familiar in every business cycle where growth slows, often quite sharply, while inflation carries on rising. There are lags in the inflation process, which even the Bank of England seems to have forgotten, meaning that the peak of inflation is reached at least one year, and more likely two, after the peak rate of growth. This is nothing as dramatic as stagflation, simply the normal cyclical pattern.

That was the main thrust of yesterday's annual report from the OECD. The UK will see much slower growth this year and next, and persistent inflation – and there is not much the Bank of England can do about it. It sounds like fine for both the MPC and the City pundits to make the situation worse and take a foreign holiday, far away from this dismal June.

* Laird shares drop 20% as profits slump

SHARES IN Laird, the engineering group, fell by more than 20 per cent after the company said its first half profits would be over 40 per cent lower than last year.

Laird said cost pressures in its sealing systems business meant that pre-tax profits for the six months to June would be close to £20m, down from £34.7m in the same period last year.

At last month's annual general meeting, Laird said profits in the first four months of the year were running at a lower level than in 1997. Yesterday, the company said that the position

in its sealing systems division had deteriorated.

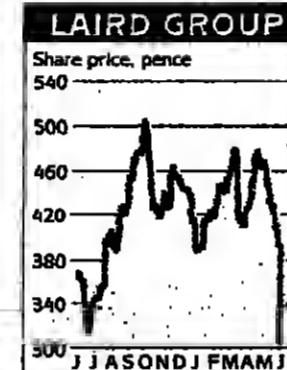
"This will result in a loss in these activities for the first half of 1998," the company said. The company added that its other activities, which in 1997 accounted for over 80 per cent of total profits, "are expected to produce results in the first half similar to those of the first half in 1997".

The company's shares fell 91.5p to 297p following the profit warning, but they recovered some of their losses later in the day to close at 306.5p. The shares had started the day at 388.5p.

Ian Arnott, Laird's chief executive, said the main problem was that initial costs of operating the new car body plant in the US had been higher than expected.

Mr Arnott said: "We're sending out more experienced technicians from our plants in Europe to assist the production management in the States. The problem will be solved. Once we get the plant sorted out, it will enhance the value of our businesses overall." He added: "We are monitoring the situation on a daily basis."

In addition, the company said start-up costs on new



plants in France and Spain amounted to approximately £2m during the period.

Laird also identified some difficulties in Germany, where planned cost reductions have yet to be achieved and where margins had been forced down by strong competition.

The company said that senior management changes had been

FSA may not review 'rebate only' pensions misselling

BY ANDREW VERTHY

THE Financial Services Authority has hinted it may back away from a full-scale review of all the remaining 1.5 million cases of pension misselling after lobbying by insurance companies.

The City regulator yesterday said it was putting off a decision on part of the second phase of the pensions review, which is designed to clear up the £15bn misselling scandal.

Phase two of the review is designed to look at 1.5 million "non-priority" cases of younger people who may have been missold a pension. The first phase, which encompassed

missold. We can get carried away with this, trying to be whiter than white."

The rebate-only pensions were sold to people who wanted a personal pension rather than being in Serps, the state-run second pension. Rather than paying national insurance for Serps, over 3 million customers have opted to have a national insurance rebate paid into a personal pension.

But life insurers complained that only a tiny fraction of these cases were connected to the real misselling problem of taking a personal pension instead of an employer's scheme.

The misselling debacle is becoming increasingly costly to financial services companies.

Mogg Robinson, one of the country's biggest financial advisers, yesterday revealed it had set aside £10m to compensate victims of misselling. This is believed to have doubled since Phase Two of the review was announced.

Lincoln Assurance was yesterday fined £70,000 because of failures connected to the pensions review. Its second regulatory fine in just over a year. In April 1997 the company was fined £20,000 over problems with its administration of PEPs.

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Blue chips leave the rest behind

IT WAS a stock market of two halves - the haves and have-nots. As the blue chip Footsie index scored a 59.6 point gain to 5,772, the second and third-liners remained in dismal and ragged retreat.

Telephone groups led the Footsie charge. BT was up 37p (after 51p) to a 741p closing peak as stories continued to circulate of a deal, perhaps a full merger, with the US group AT&T.

Orange, ringing a 54p gain to 659p following an investment presentation, and Vodafone, merely joining in the telephonic fun with a 25p uplift to 760p, also helped to dial Footsie higher.

But down among the under-card it was a very different story. The mid cap index fell a resounding 51.5 to 5,510.4. It has fallen for 10 consecutive trading days, sliding 456.2. The small cap index, off 36.6 to 2,624.8, suffered a similar indignity.

The second and third-liners have had a strong run in recent months. After trailing miserably behind their Footsie peers, they staged a dramatic revival as fund managers and small investors decided blue chips had moved ahead of the game and the best value lurked on the under-card.

There was an undoubted buying stampede which, because of the lack of liquidity of many shares, pushed prices sharply higher. Now as some of the buyers feel it is time to take their profits, they are finding it difficult to exit such tightly held shares at realistic prices.

The dramatic retreat has led to some desperate sellers appearing on the scene, often prepared to accept what would be regarded as absurd prices.

Most of the mid cap shares are still traded under the transparent market-making system with only a handful graduating to the order book.

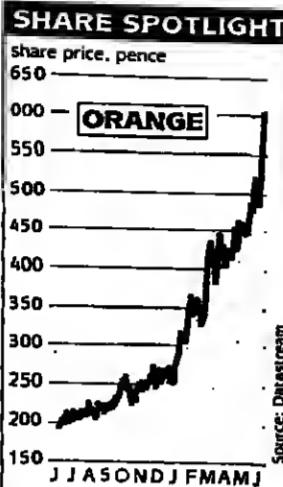
Said one dealer: "We are witnessing a very uncomfortable market; it's been a rude awakening for some of the younger fund managers."

Rumours of BT's proposed AT&T deal have been intriguing the market for nearly a week. The American group would represent a splendid

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN



consolidation prize for BT following the loss of its planned MCI deal. Orange, where SEC Warburg has set an 800p target, was spurred by a new tariff package and network guarantee proposals.

Others to support the Footsie push were Halifax, recovering much of Monday's fall, and Schroders, where

DEAN CORPORATION, the building and property services group created by Stephen Dean, is creeping up on Superframe; it has picked up another 500,000 shares, lifting its stake to 29.45 per cent, just below the level which triggers a bid. It is thought Mr Dean hopes to galvanise the acrylic shop-fitting maker, possibly joining the board. But there is also the possibility he will roll out a full bid. Superframe, which came to market at 50p three years ago, held at 22p.

MEARS, the building maintenance company, firmed 0.5p to 12.25p. Takeover talk is in the air. There are suggestions one would-be bidder has decided to walk away. Placed at 10p in October 1996, the shares hit a 13.5p high recently.

LPA, little changed at 73.5p, should lift profits from £55,000 to £90,000 this year and then hit £1.15m, says stockbroker Greig Middleton.

SEAO VOLUME 903.3m: SEAO TRADES: 63,224 GILT INDEX: n/a

takeover hopes have an eternal quality.

BAT Industries, up 26p to 552p, was puffed higher on the back of a US court victory and Safeway, the stores chain, improved 12.5p to 333.5p as HSBC was thought to have adopted a more positive stance to what has become the tame duck of the big four retailers.

Overseas earners remained in the doldrums, hit by the continuing strength of sterling. Rio/Tinto fell 24.5p to 880p, BTR 5p to 170.25p and Wolesey 17.5p to 355p.

Engineers Laird produced the day's main profit warning - and lost 22p to 306.5p for its trouble. It said interim profits would be nearer 220m than last time's 234.7m.

Another warning emerged from finance group London Forfaiting. The market slashed profit forecasts after the company, dogged in recent weeks by concerns over its extensive Asian exposure, warned profits would be "substantially" below expectations. With forecasts now in the £30m area against £47m, the shares plunged 71p to 263.5p. They were 481.5p a few months ago.

First Leisure declined 36p to 379.5p following disappointing profits, and another negative trading statement from Sears left the shares 47.5p down to 56.75p. Figures from Jarvis hit the shares 42.5p to 704p.

The rug was pulled from Carpetright, off 41.5p to

Hamble Countrywide, the estate agent, gave up 4.5p to 162.5p; a 32.5 million block went through at 123p as the demerger from the old Hamble was effected. It is thought the shares came from Guardian Asset Management, which had a significant stake in the estate agent even before the demerger. Under the terms of the split, shareholders received 0.9 of a Hamblewide share for every one Hamble share.

Psion's recent strength appeared to come from a possible move into "the field of wireless information devices". Apparently a joint venture, with an unidentified partner, is being considered. Shares of the hand-held computer group ended unchanged at 12.5p.

Tadpole Technology firmed 1.5p to 16.25p after cutting interim losses from £2.5m to £94.000 but Ionic, the bashed-pressed wireless telephone group, lost 6p to 28p.

With the next move for interest rates expected to be up, this year is clearly going to be grim for Carpetright. On a lowly forward rating of 12 the shares could offer good longer-term value but are not worth chasing in the short term.

Carpetright floored by higher interest rates

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

Hogg Robinson shaken up

CARPETRIGHT HAS never had it so bad. Even Lord Harris of Peckham, the retailer's founder and chairman, has never seen a carpet market like this in his 40 years in the business. People aren't buying the things even if you slash the price, he says. Investors have been avoiding the shares in similar fashion. They have now almost halved in a year, falling a further 13 per cent to 274.5p yesterday, their lowest point in four years.

The latest fall follows lower than expected full year profits of 220m, down from £22m. Coming hard on the heels of the company's warning of a sales slowdown in March, the figures have analysts cutting their forecasts from around £34m to £25m for the current year.

What has gone wrong? The problems are partly external. Higher interest rates are deterring consumers from buying big ticket items like carpets and furniture, hence the recent profits warnings from DFS and MFI. The carpet market fell off a cliff in December and January, which are traditionally strong periods for carpet sales.

However, mistakes have also been made internally, including spending too much on advertising and over-hiring. The result was a dramatic fall in the net margin, which dropped from 13.8 per cent to 10.8 per cent as costs rose ahead of sales. Lord Harris plans to cut 5m from the cost base this year. He expects to maintain margins across the group this year but has scaled back expansion plans.

With the next move for interest rates expected to be up, this year is clearly going to be grim for Carpetright. On a lowly forward rating of 12 the shares could offer good longer-term value but are not worth chasing in the short term.

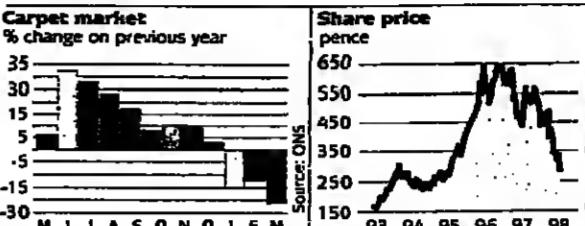
A deal too far for Jarvis?

HAVE WE seen the best of Jarvis? The fast-growing transport infrastructure and facilities management group has been one of the market's favourite stocks in recent years. But in the past few weeks investors have slammed on the brakes,

CARPETRIGHT: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £218m, share price: 274.5p (+1.1%)

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Turnover (£m)	11.00	14.10	18.50	23.8	20.93
Pre-tax profits (£m)	14.0	19.7	25.2	32.1	29.1
Earnings per share (p)	12.0	15.8	22.3	28.5	26.0
Dividends per share (p)	7.0	10.5	4.5	19.0	22.0



and yesterday the shares dropped another 30.5p to 176p.

This despite impressive full-year figures which showed pre-tax profits more than doubling to £28.7m on turnover up 36 per cent to £255m. Even the news that Jarvis is the preferred bidder on a range of contracts with a combined £300m failed to boost the shares.

This is just profit talk. After all, Jarvis shares have risen more than 30-fold since the beginning of 1996. But the concerns run deeper. Specifically, shareholders worry that Jarvis may have done a deal too far in buying Streamline, the quoted road services business, for £15.5m in May.

Paris Moquedi, Jarvis's chief executive, argues that it makes sense to branch out into roads and airports. But sceptics point out that in rail Jarvis is dealing with a private-sector customer while in roads it depends on the government. The government's dislike of road travel hardly bodes well.

Moreover, Jarvis will not be able to repeat the trick it managed last year with Fastline and Relaylast, in taking underperforming assets and turning them around. Instead, Jarvis paid a full price for a company which was already very profitable.

Brokers expect profits of £57m in the coming year, putting the shares on a forward P/E ratio of 23. Given the uncertainty, the shares are still overvalued.

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NEW CHAIRMAN Neville Bain has taken Hogg Robinson, the travel and financial services group, by the scruff of the neck and shaken some life into it by a mixture of disposals and management focus.

The pensions mis-selling scandal still hangs over it but a hefty £10m provision in next year's accounts should finally confine that episode to the history books. The size of the provision sent shares plunging 29.5p to 289.5p yesterday but the fall looks overdone. Management displayed its optimism about the future by unveiling a final dividend of 6.83p, making a total for the year of 11.0p, up 12.2 per cent.

The payout - which follows last year's share buyback - came after total group pre-tax and pre-exceptional profits rose from £28.1m last time to £30.1m for the 12 months to March 31.

Last year's clear-out involved the sale of Hogg Robinson's transport division but the group also bought two business travel operations. It has started the new year in the same way, taking a 51 per cent stake in Canada's Hider Travel.

Currency factors cost the company £1.6m last year and it is losing some business as a result of the Asian crisis. But analysts expect 1998 profits of £22m, putting the company on a future earnings multiple of 11. After yesterday's fall, buy.

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES									
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Ext. floor	Volume	Open	Interest		
Long Gilt	Sept-98	106.75	106.52	29,370.00	12,957				
5% Gilt	Sept-98	101.27	101.02	40,400	4,250				
German Bond	Sept-98	106.37	108.42	12,716.00	67,110				
Italian Bond	Sept-98	120.46	120.22	156,160	95,145				
Japan Govt Bond	Sept-98	133.40	133.34	135.60	0.00				
3 Mth Sterling	Sept-98	92.09	92.10	92.00	12,890	16,692	19.00		
3 Mth Eurosterling	Sept-98	94.74	94.75	94.70	12,564	18,894	19.00		
3 Mth Euromark	Sept-98	96.39	96.39	105.00	14,481	2,000	1.00		
3 Mth Eurofrance	Sept-98	95.58	95.50	193,370	20,342				
Dec-98	95.95	95.96	95.93	65,440	15,380				
3 Mth Euroyen	Sept-98	95.30	95.28	95.20	10,000	1,000	0.00		
3 Mth Eurobonds	Sept-98	98.00	97.98	10,705	89,922				
3 Mth Euro	Sept-98	97.83	97.88	97.80	52,399	45,334			
Aug-98	95.76	95.76	95.76	0.00	0.00				
Sept-98	95.70	95.70	95.69	576,00	19,038	0.00			
FTE 100	Sept-98	5842.00	5853.00	5763.00	15,086	15,000	15,000		

LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION									
Settlement	High	Low	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call
Series	Call	Imp Vol	Put	Imp Vol	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call
Aug-98	91.22	280	347	216	397	237			
Sept-98	91.22	188	315	371	320	203			
Oct-98	91.22	159	205	286	347	269			
Nov-98	91.22	132</td							

22/MANAGED FUNDS

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Caution grounds High-Rise plans

BY GREG WOOD

THE FLY-BILLS advertising a meeting of the Derby winners will need to be pulped in Dublin this morning, thanks to the unexpected decision yesterday by the connections of High-Rise to avoid a meeting with Dream Well in the Irish Derby at the Curragh on Sunday. Sheikh Obaid al Maktoum, High-Rise's owner, will not now need to find the £175,000 required to add his colt to the race, but it is followers of racing on both sides of the Irish Sea who will be the poorer for his absence.

Anthony Stroud, Sheikh Obaid's racing manager, said that it had been decided to give High-Rise more time to recover from the experience of winning the Derby at Epsom a little over two weeks ago. His next race will instead be the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot on 25 July, and it will be another year at least before the Curragh can stage a meeting between the English and French Derby winners for the first time since Commander in Chief beat Hernando in 1993.

"The horse is very well and

in good form," Luca Cumani, his trainer, said yesterday, "but the owner, Anthony and I have decided that if we give him a bit more time in between races we can go straight for the King George in good shape."

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Shamanic
(Epsom 9.05)
NB: Silk St John
(Salisbury 3.10)

"There is also the fact that it involved a £75,000 payment and the King George is free. We are looking at the King George and we will see after that but if we don't overdo it now then hopefully we will

still have a horse in the autumn as well."

The Irish Derby still promises to be a serious horse race, however, and in the regrettable absence of its winner, the Epsom form could not have a stronger representative than City Honours, who was overhauled by High-Rise when just a few strides away from giving Godolphin their most important victory to date. This will be the first serious examination of the Derby's merits, and it is a test which its French equivalent barely scraped through last weekend when Croco Rouge and Prolix, who finished third and fifth respectively behind Dream Well last month, could reach only the 10th and above.

It is far from unusual, though, for form recorded on Epsom's demanding switchback to unravel when tested on the galloping expanse of the Curragh. Sadan, Sunshine Street and Saratoga Springs, who finished seventh, fourth and 10th respectively behind High-Rise, are expected to mount a serious challenge this weekend, and all are offered at single-figure odds. Risk Material, an unexposed stable-mate of Saratoga Springs at Aidan

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The official handicappers have offered support to the Epsom Classic by rating Dream Well 2lb inferior to High-Rise, an assessment which did not impress Pascal Barry, Dream Well's trainer. Barry will not appreciate the opening betting on Sunday's race either, in which his colt is the 100-30 second-favourite despite having reportedly improved in both his work and physical wellbeing since his victory at Chantilly. City Honours, who has himself been the subject of excited dispatches from the Newmarket gallops, is a 13-8 chance, with the eight remaining entries available at 7-1 and above.

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Lessons of defeat: England face a testing task to overcome Colombia with injuries complicating tactical choices

Midfield must restrict Valderrama's options

I AGREED with Glenn Hoddle when he said that bad defensive goals cost England dear against Romania on Monday night. However I am not as ready as the England coach to put the blame on the defenders; to my mind the problem stemmed from a refusal by the midfield players and wing-backs to get close to their men and prevent them from playing the final pass or cross.

I don't understand the so-called modern game the television commentators go on about, a game when players seem to have time on the ball to look up and consider all their options. There is a thing called pressure that you can apply to the other team but I didn't see the England team apply any to the man on the ball at any stage of the game.

The service to Alan Shearer and



JACK CHARLTON

Teddy Sheringham was awful. It was an embarrassment to Sheringham, he did not have a single header at goal and I felt sorry for him.

The other thing I don't understand about the modern game is that

if you use two wing-backs flanking three central defenders, the wide men are expected to get up the line and deliver good balls across and still be back to defend in deep positions. You are asking them to be both heart and soul of the team, and it can't be done.

On Monday night we did not see the wing-backs filling those positions where you can deliver decent balls in – in fact I got tired of watching Shearer running down the right flank to fire over crosses when the situation cried out for him to be in the middle, on the end of them.

What also happens is that the opposition have a lot of inviting space down the channels they are only too eager to exploit. Romania did this very well because they are capable of knocking short balls around and

then hitting a long pass to someone in space. They deserved their win, or at least they did on the basis of the first three-quarters of the game.

Kevin Keegan has taken some stick for saying that, after Michael Owen's equaliser, there could be only one winner of the game but he was right. It was there for England's taking if they had kept their shape, worked a bit harder and closed down in midfield.

Romania's winning goal was a travesty from England's point of view. It was not even a break from them. Dorinel Munteanu picked up the ball in a position of no particular danger 40 yards from goal and our midfield allowed him to have a good look where he wanted to put it. You could see Dan Petrescu, marked by Graeme Le Saux, begin

to make his run between the two centre-halves, and for some reason Le Saux stuck with him as though he had been instructed to man-mark. It would surely have been better for Sol Campbell to track the run rather than staying in a sort of left-back position.

The first goal was not really a move at all, it was what I would call a progression: it was a ball that came across and if Campbell had put his head towards it, the referee would probably have awarded England a free-kick for dangerous play.

The ball then fell behind Tony Adams and Viorel Moldovan put it away. I wouldn't particularly blame Adams – I wouldn't particularly blame anyone – although Le Saux might have been a bit closer to stop the ball coming across; it was a goal that developed from a series of silly situations.

England's second-half performance was an improvement because we were able to release people from midfield to run at their defence. The introduction of David Beckham helped in that regard and Shearer was able to find a bit more space to try and turn his defender.

I don't think the loss of Paul Ince affected us at all – we had no midfield in the first half anyway.

Still there was no real service to the front men and only Paul Scholes was able to offer anything resembling support. For that I would blame the way we build up from the back. In many people's eyes I have become a critic of David Batty but I like midfield players to pass the ball forward, into the channels where Shearer and Sheringham can get

after the ball and get support from out wide.

I don't see that there is any way that Michael Owen will now not start for England on Friday. It is going to be a nervy affair and my first thought is that I don't want to watch Colombia use Carlos Valderrama as an old-fashioned midfield link-man who is free of marking duties. When they gain possession they look to feed him and he can do damage with his passing and his movement.

It is helpful to England that Colombia have to win the game, while a draw will be enough for us. That means the South Americans will have to come at us and not rely on their normal containing game and quick breaks. I just hope England will learn the lessons of what went wrong against Romania.

Time is ripe for Owen to blossom

After England's disappointing result against Romania, Glenn Hoddle must make some changes. By Glenn Moore

STATISTICALLY, ENGLAND'S defeat to Romania on Monday changed nothing. In human terms it changed everything.

While England still have to take a point from Colombia in Lens on Friday, the same as if they had drawn or won in Toulouse, expectations of the team have been radically altered, and its approach and composition should be.

In public none of this is admitted by Glenn Hoddle. Having blamed "sloppy defending" for the defeat in its immediate aftermath yesterday he blamed "naive defending". He then insisted it was a good performance. It is time to blame himself and appraise his team's development honestly.

England have not played well since Rome in October, and then, it should be remembered, they drew 0-0. Contrary to myth, England did not tear the Azzurri to shreds, they held them at bay.

Since then they have beaten limited opponents in Cameroon, Morocco and Tunisia, scratched draws with Switzerland, Saudi Arabia and Belgium, been beaten by Chile and Romania, and been outplayed by the superior technicians of Portugal. Yes, Portugal were beaten 3-0 at Wembley in April, but their passing exposed England, and they just lacked Romania's defensive nous and attacking edge.

With Colombia also technically gifted, and the equally talented and more steely Argentina next in line, England's prospects do not look good – but it is not over. They do have good players, it is time to deploy them better.

Michael Owen must start on Friday. When he came on on Monday, Romania suddenly looked worried. The classy Julian Filipescu, who had been marking Alan Shearer, switched to the teenager, leaving the less experienced Liviu Ciobanu minding the England captain. The result was an Owen goal made by Shearer.

Yesterday Hoddle intimated that he might, indeed, start. "It was al-

ways on my mind to nurse him into the World Cup. He's learning quickly, he's off the mark and if he starts now the pressure will be on his shoulders but his confidence will be high. If he'd started two games and not scored people would be saying 'he's not ready'."

However, Hoddle quickly added that Teddy Sheringham "had done nothing wrong". After playing well against Tunisia it would be more accurate to say he did little right in Toulouse.

The time is right to play Owen. With Paul Gascoigne departed the need to play both Paul Ince and David Batty as cover, and Sheringham to link a deep midfield and otherwise isolated attack is gone. With the more mobile David Beckham and Paul Scholes in midfield England can afford to play two up.

Ince's injury – and the omission of Nicky Butt – means that David Batty may survive for now but it is hard to see what he contributes against teams like Romania.

He cannot keep the ball except to move it sideways and, emasculated by more stringent refereeing, cannot niggle people. What is the point of having a Batty in the team if he does not take advantage of Gheorghe Hagi's early loss of tempo? Booked after three minutes and still prepared to argue with the referee Hagi was ripe to see a red card as well as the red mist.

Instead, given Darren Anderton's fine performance on the right – justification for Hoddle's choice although he was exposed defensively on occasion – Beckham should continue in central midfield.

"He proved he is more than capable of doing a great job there," said Shearer yesterday. "He couldn't have done more, the rest is up to the manager."

Hoddle was more circumspect, going out of his way to also praise Anderton and Batty. The danger is that, with only a draw required, this essentially defensive coach will go out against Colombia looking for just that.

England's Michael Owen being consoled after defeat by Romania on Monday David Ashdown

Ince heads England injuries

By GLENN MOORE

PAUL INCE is "50-50" to start England's decisive Group G World Cup tie against Colombia in Lens on Friday and Sol Campbell has a jarred knee.

Scholes and Campbell both took part in light training yesterday but Ince and Southgate did not.

Hoddle was also concerned about damage being done outside the England camp by external criticism, notably from Alex Ferguson.

The Manchester United manager

criticised Hoddle's decision to play

Darren Anderton ahead of David

Beckham at the weekend which, said Hoddle, "was unhelpful."

"People have to understand that it is up to me to pick the team and it is disappointing that some of the people criticising do the same job as me," he said. "I wouldn't put that pressure on Alex for a big European game. It didn't affect Darren though, he would not have played so well if we had not taken him off."

Anderton dismissed the remarks. "Everyone has a right to their opinion," he said.

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Hagi's class ruled England



EAMON DUNPHY

ENGLAND'S LIMITATIONS were exposed by Romania in Toulouse.

There can be no doubt now that, for all his mind games, Glenn Hoddle is not the tactical genius that he believes himself to be.

Romania will never win the World Cup. Nobody thought they would, not even patriotic Romanians. But England's hope that they would be the champions is an illusion that can now be dispelled.

The Romanians, experienced World Cup warriors, gave England a football lesson. First, the most important thing in football is possession of the ball. Second, passing and movement win games at this level. So does talent. Tactics matter; psychology is essential to the business.

But the priority that Hoddle has placed on tactics and playing games with the media, worse still with his own players, will be exposed in this tournament.

The most important lesson Hoddle could learn from last night's match is that talent matters above all else.

Gheorghe Hagi is richly gifted. At 33, his legs don't cover the ground the way they used to. But he has that little touch of class that matters in a match.

England set out to bully David Ince in midfield. England at this stage badly needed a touch of creativity. Alan Shearer looked frustrated. His body language was telling. England were fortunate to be level at half-time.

Two minutes into the second half Romania gained the lead they deserved. The circumstances seemed innocuous, a throw-in on the right 20 yards from the byline. Hagi slipped his marker (Graeme Le Saux) and gained a yard, which was enough. A delicate touch lofted



Gheorghe Hagi of Romania refuses to be intimidated by England's Paul Ince in Toulouse yesterday

Allsport

England were aggressive, Romania technically accomplished. That means that England ran a lot while Romania controlled the movement of the play. Hagi continued to spray shots into the stand high above England's goal.

Hagi, Adrian Ilie, Moldovan and Dan Petrescu all featured for Romania. However, less familiar names should also figure on the roll of honour: Constantine Galca, Dorinel Munteanu, Gheorghe Popescu and the centre-back Liviu Cioabatariu (who comprehensively won his battle with Shearer) all contributed significantly to a very dominant Romanian performance.

The English fans began to chant for the introduction of Michael Owen, Liverpool's astonishing youngster. At 18, some feel Owen is too young for World Cup football. Brian Keegan is a howl. They

the ball over Adams' head to Viorel Moldovan who crashed a volley past Seaman. Why old Gheorghe has never lost it. One touch of class is worth 10 gallons of sweat. ITV had stopped taking the piss.

On the half-hour David Beckham replaced the injured Ince in midfield. England at this stage badly needed a touch of creativity. Alan Shearer looked frustrated. His body language was telling. England were fortunate to be level at half-time.

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Others believe if you're good enough, you're old enough. With 20 minutes left, Hoddle succumbed to the terraces, also perhaps to his own football sense.

Kevin was introduced to a huge cheer. As Kevin Keegan commenting on ITV said: "40,000 people can't be wrong!" That's why Kevin is managing Fulham! He was wrong about the numbers as well: only 20,000 English fans packed the terraces.

Anyway Kevin and the 40,000 people who couldn't be wrong were proved to be right with seven minutes left Owen scored a wonderful opportunity goal.

Watching this on ITV was a joy. The English with their backs to the wall are funny. Brian Moore is funny anyway. Brian Keegan is a howl. They

were up and down all night like a whore's drawers. One minute laughing at Hagi, the next admiring his silken touch. With two minutes left and England pressing forward it seemed that something had been salvaged for Hoddle and his team. And the 40,000 who couldn't be wrong. Then Keegan ruined everything.

"Only one team can win now," Kevin suggested. He didn't need to say which team. "I hope I'm not tempting divine providence," the great man added.

Those words were still resonating when divine providence did what many ITV viewers have wanted to do for a very long time: screw Keegan.

After 88 minutes Le Saux made another mistake. Le Saux is good going forward with the ball at his feet. His problem is that yard that matters at this level.

This time he allowed his Chelsea colleague Petrescu to gain the slightest advantage which Petrescu translated into victory. Keegan and Moore were down again.

And England, poor England were well, not going to win the World Cup anyway, even if Owen popped up again to hit a post with a stinging shot from 20 yards in the last minute.

As for Anderton? He played okay but England should play Beckham out wide and Owen at centre-forward. That's the way ahead.

But don't miss Keegan on ITV if you want to enjoy your football. Talking of a Romanian player who'd changed clubs, he remarked: "He's left Barcelona for 'pastors' new." Surely he meant pastures. Although with Keegan you never know.

DIARY

Unless Glenn Hoddle's team improve, the best place for an Englishman to follow the World Cup might well be from the isolated British Antarctic Survey stations on the remote ice-capped continent where there is currently 24 hours of midwinter darkness each day. Unable to receive terrestrial or satellite television, the teams are dependent on the BBC World Service for developments in France but the signal is often too weak. Staff at the survey's Cambridge headquarters are sending regular e-mails and pages of football news to the 37 engineers and scientists living for details on England and Scotland.

The Iranian players will receive around £4,000 apiece from their government for their defeat of the United States. That is in addition to the £1,000 paid to them for the 1-0 defeat by Yugoslavia in their first World Cup game in 20 years. The combined payment compares unfavourably with the £25,000 plus a Mercedes car that the Saudi Arabian players each received when qualifying for the 1994 World Cup yet in Iran, where a good monthly salary amounts to about £120 it will do very nicely thank-you.

TREVOR HAYLETT

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"They had two or three chances and scored two goals. They were sloppy goals. They just happen sometimes." Sol Campbell, England defender, on Monday's defeat to Romania.

"I'm certain that they'll qualify by beating Colombia." Dan Petrescu, Romania's match-winner, with comforting words for England.

"I think Shearer needs more support up front and Michael is the man to come in and help him." Roger Hunt, England World Cup winner, on Michael Owen.

Vieira to face Danes

THE ARSENAL midfielder Patrick Vieira - called up by France for his first match in the World Cup finals against Denmark today - has said he will play his normal physical game, despite the rash of yellow and red cards in the tournament so far.

The fiery 21-year-old was frequently cautioned last season when he was a key figure in the Gunners' Double-winning side. But Vieira - brought in alongside club-mate Emmanuel Petit for captain Didier

Deschamps, who is on one yellow card - has promised not to alter his style.

"I will be more careful but it won't change my game. I have a game that I wouldn't say is aggressive, but full of commitment," he said. "It's up to me to adapt, as players like me are penalised more than others. While a tackle in England wouldn't merit a booking, it could bring one here. It's up to the referee.

"In the position where I play there are numerous individ-

ual battles and it is better to win them without being dirty. You don't go out to hurt anybody."

Vieira is expecting a physical tussle in midfield. "Denmark have a great team with some talented players, so there will be no quarter given. They need a win and although we're already in the second round, we must finish top of the group."

Centre-back Frank Leboeuf returns to the France side as well today in place of Laurent Blanc, who is also on a yellow card, and Marcel Desailly, his new partner at Chelsea next season, is happy to welcome him back.

Desailly has not played alongside Leboeuf in the national side since March, when France lost 1-0 to Russia in Moscow - their only defeat together in six-and-a-half matches.

Denmark's coach, Bo Johansson, is expected to reinforce the wings to combat France's power down the flanks. "It's the defence that needs to be strengthened," said Denmark's Jacob Laursen, who may return to the Danish team.

"What can the team do (about it)? I was very hurt by what the German Football Federation planned. It has left behind its scars. It has nothing to do with the team."

Yesterday Vogts took the unusual step of confirming that the 37-year-old Lothar Matthäus would definitely play in tomorrow's game against Iran in Montpellier, in what will be his record 23rd World Cup match.

Vogts would not say, though, whether he would play Matthäus at the back as sweeper or in midfield.

Tunisia's coach, Henryk Kasperczak, yesterday after his team failed to qualify for the second round. The Pole, the third coach to suffer this fate in four days, will be replaced by his deputy, Ali Selmi.

Kasperczak had already signed to coach the French club, Bastia, next season.

World Cup referees have been encouraged to clamp down on players asking for an opponent, who has fouled them, to be booked or sent off.

"They should take stricter action against something which is an act of dissent and bad sportsmanship - trying to get an opponent into trouble," the Fifa spokesman, Keith Cooper, said.

Vogts is angered by threat to quit

BERTI VOGTS, Germany's coach, said yesterday he had been angered by a suggestion his team might pull out of the World Cup because of an attack on a French policeman by German hooligans.

Vogts said he felt he had been personally attacked when an unnamed German federation official asked him about drawing. The coach revealed he had been confronted with the idea in the early hours of the morning on Monday, following the attack in Lens after his team's 2-2 draw with Yugoslavia on Sunday.

The French policeman is fighting for his life in a deep coma after being beaten about the head. "I had to deal with the question at two in the morning and I was angry," Vogts said.

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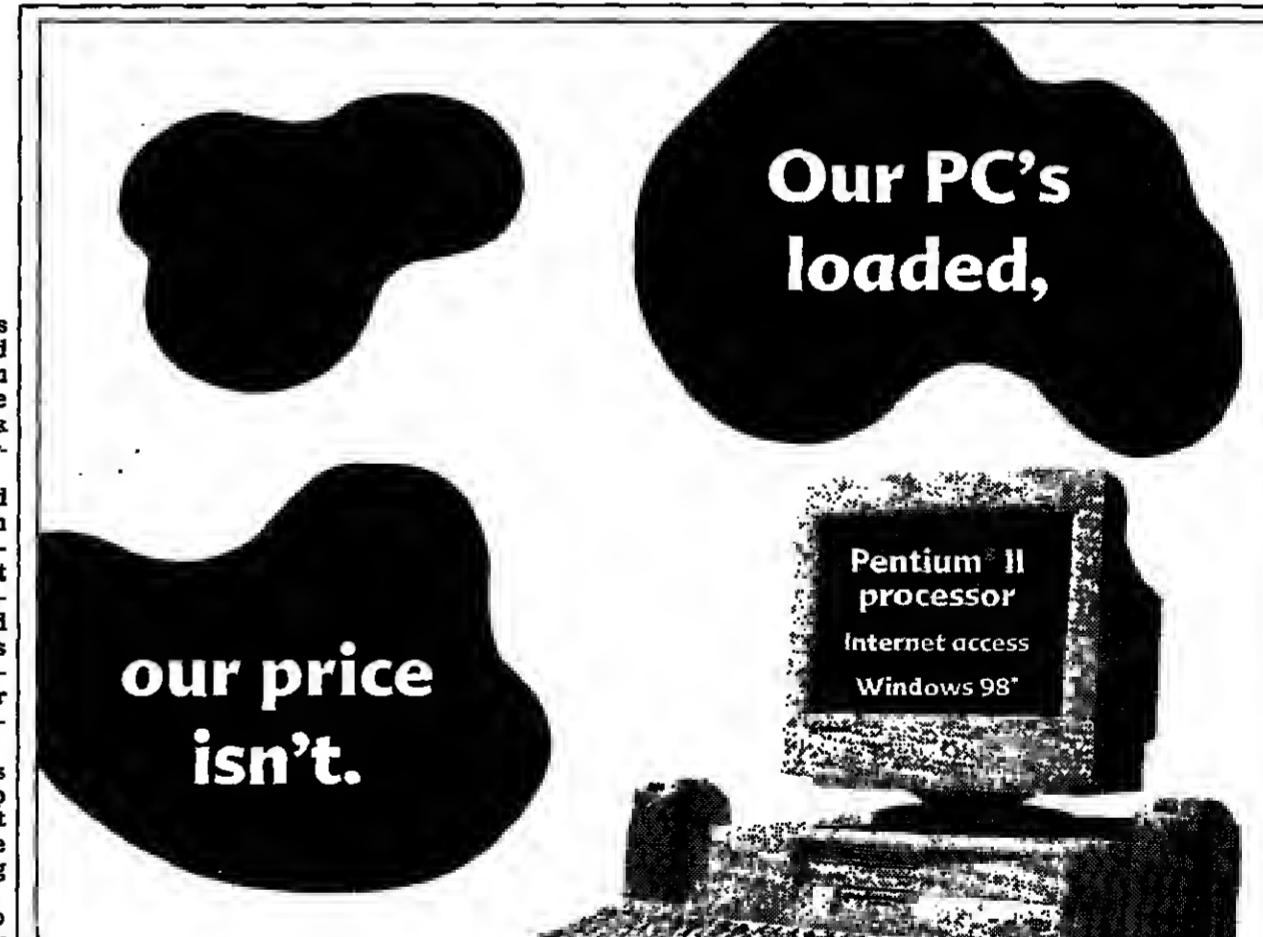
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Paraguay to keep it tight

CAUTION WILL once again be the by-word for Paraguay when they tackle the Group D winners Nigeria in Toulouse today. The South Americans have yet to score in the tournament but they have not conceded any goals either. Paulino Cesár Carpegiani's team got into the game knowing another shut-out will give them a chance of de-

feating, they must score at least three more goals than Spain score tonight to have a chance of qualifying.

Spain draw with Bulgaria; Nigeria draw with Paraguay; Paraguay finish as runners-up.

Spain beat Bulgaria; Paraguay finish as runners-up.

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SPORT

WHERE NOW FOR HODDLE P28 & 29 • MAORI MAULING FOR ENGLAND P23

Baggio has the finishing touch for Italians

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
at Stade de France, St DenisItaly
Vieri 49, R Baggio 89
Austria
Herzog pen 90

Att: 75,000

THIS HAD the look of a soporific game before the kick-off and the pessimists were not disappointed. Italy controlled the game throughout - with Luigi Di Biagio tireless in midfield - but they have still to play a fully convincing 90 minutes in France 98.

Do they have enough in reserve to outrun or outwit the likes of Brazil or Argentina or even France, their possibly quarter-final opponents? They do not have to show their full hand yet. The win was enough to give Italy the championship of Group B and a last-16 match in Marseilles on Saturday against Scotland, Norway or Morocco.

The game began in permanent slow motion with few pas-

sages worth replaying. Was there a ball on the pitch? It hardly mattered. Mexican waves are usually a tedious distraction.

In the first 20 minutes of this match, the wave which made lazy circuits of the beautiful, sunlit Stade de France, was the only entertainment on offer.

Italy wanted Austria to come out and play, Austria insisted that the Italians must come round to their house. Stalemate.

Mysteriously, with dozens of millions of pounds of

midfield talent on the bench -

Albertini, Di Matteo, Di Livo -

Cesare Maldini chose to play an

extra defender, Gianluca Pessotto, in midfield. Up front Alessandro Del Piero looked

wily and pacey when he had the

chance but was regularly clattered by Heimo Pfeifenberger.

Paul Durkin, the English referee, gave him little protection.

After 25 minutes or so, both sides seemed to get bored at once. When Ivica Vastic put Dietmar Kühbauer through on the right, he was pushed over by Fabio Cannavaro just outside

the area, but Durkin ruled that

there was no foul.

Pessotto playing well for-

ward, despite his usual defen-

sive role for Juventus, scurried

down the left and thumped a

low centre across the goal. It

was met on the half-volley by

Francesco Moriero but the ball

skidded wide of the far upright.

In the last minute of the

half, Austria - last-minute spe-

cialists in their two previous 1-1

draws in Group B - almost

surprised themselves by taking

the lead. Vastic cut in from the

left, but Anton Polster could not

control his cross and Pessotto

cleared. The teams went off to

boos from the large number of

uncommitted spectators. The

truth is that this World Cup has

spoiled us all: there have been

few matches like this.

The half-time score from

Nantes may have alarmed the

Italians. With Chile leading

Cameroon 1-0 it only needed

two more Chilean goals to

dump Italy in to a last 16 game

against Brazil.

For whatever reason, the

Italians came out looking for a

goal and got one. Peter Schöf-
fner fouled the much-fouled Del
Piero on the left; the Juventus
striker took the free-kick himself,
scooping the ball high over an Austrian defence which un-
accountably forgot about the other
striker, Christian Vieri.

From point-blank range, he
headed the ball almost verti-
cally down and into the net.

Would we have a game at
last? It turned out that the
Austrians could play well
enough when they had to. A
cross from Pfeifenberger was
played back by Vastic and fired
just wide by Hanno Reinmayr.

Excitement in deed.

The Austrians pressed for-
ward, leaving gaps at last which
the elder Maldini decided to ex-
plore with fresher legs. He
brought off first Vieri and then
Del Piero to make way for Fil-
ippo Inzaghi and Roberto

Baggio.

The game reached the dying
minutes - time for an Austrian
goal? It was, from a penalty by
the substitute, Andreas Herzog, in
injury time, but the Italians had
already spoiled the script by
scoring a second a minute
earlier. Inzaghi escaped on the
right and centred low to Roberto
to Baggio who tapped in.

Six minutes from time a
spectator had tried to invade
the pitch. It was difficult to see
why he bothered, was he over-
come by excitement? Or did he
want his money back?

ITALY (3-2-2): Pagliuca (Internazionale);

Motta (Inter); Mazzola (Milan); Car-

ri (Parma); Miceri (Internazionale);

D'Biagio (Parma), Di Stéfano (Roma);

Pessotto (Juventus), Maldini (Milan);

Vieri (Aenco Macri); Del Piero (Ju-

ventus); Inzaghi (Internazionale); Ni-

sta (Juventus) for Vieri, 60; R. Baggio

(Bologna) for Del Piero, 72.

AUSTRIA (2-3-1): Kossler (Ferlach); Pf-

erfer (Austria); Vier (Ferlach); Pfeifenber-

ger (Borussia Dortmund); Schüttel (Rapid Vi-

enna); Reinmayr (Sturm Graz); Klöbauer

(Real Sociedad); Mühlemann (Sturm Graz);

Pfeifenberger (Austria); Herzog (Rapid Vienna); Mücke (Sturm Graz);

Pötscher (Cologne); Mücke (Sturm Graz);

Pötscher (Cologne); Substitutes: Haas

(Sturm Graz) for Pötscher, 62; Stöger (Uer-

ther ASK) for Herzog, 74; Hering (Werder

Bremen) for Pfeifenberger, 79.

Referee: P Durkin (England).



Italy's Alessandro Del Piero holds off the Austrian Heimo Pfeifenberger during yesterday's 2-1 win. - Alsport

Croatia top of Romania's hit list

THE JUBILANT coach and play-
ers of Romania, still on a high
from the morning after beating Eng-
land 2-1, said yesterday that
they would prefer to meet the
World Cup novices Croatia in
the next round.

A draw in their last Group G
game against Tunisia will guar-
antee Romania first place and a
game against the second-
placed side in Group H, cur-
rently Croatia. But Argentina
could also finish runners-up, set-
ting up a repeat of the
thrilling second round game
four years ago which Romania
won 3-2.

"I prefer Croatia, but at this

level no games are easy, not for
any team," Angel Iordanescu,
the Romanian coach, said at a
champagne reception to mark
the departure of the team from
their secluded hotel in Albi, in
south-western France.

Croatia, who are appearing
in their first World Cup, have
won both their matches so far
"At this level it doesn't matter
who we meet, since both teams
have very good players. Per-
haps I would prefer Croatia, be-
cause they don't have too much
experience," midfielder Gabriel

Popescu said.

Veteran playmaker Gheor-
ge Hagi and striker Viorel

Moldovan - who combined for
the first goal on Monday night
- also said they would prefer to
meet the Croatians.

"Technically we can beat
anyone. Our players have plenty

of experience of winning at
the highest levels in Europe,"

Hagi said, who insisted the
aging team had no problems
with stamina. "I don't think

there are any physical short-
comings. We can give our all
for at least 75 minutes," he said.

The players and their nor-
mally down coach, who have
kept themselves at a great dis-
tance from the press, were in

excellent spirits.

Even Iordanescu's face was
creased in smiles as he thanked
the mayor of Albi and the man-
agement of the team's luxury
hotel for their hospitality. The
win over England had been...

More than 50,000 Romanians
cheered and danced in
Bucharest streets early yes-
terday to celebrate the national
team's win against England.

Within minutes of the final
whistle in Toulouse, vast
crowds poured into University
Square, the traditional site of
large gatherings, blowing horns
and setting off firecrackers.

For more than two hours
revellers streamed through side
streets and into the capital's
principal boulevard, with chil-
dren and teenage girls hosted
on shoulders. "Romania! Ro-
mania!" chanted clusters of
fans, who formed large circles
to dance the traditional Ro-
manian hora.

Large crowds poured
through Bucharest four years
ago when Romania reached the
quarter-finals in the US. Uni-
versity Square was the site of
clashes between troops and
students in December 1989

uprising. Tens of thousands
gathered there last year to meet
the US President, Bill Clinton.

TODAY: FRANCE v DENMARK (3-0). SOUTH AFRICA v SAUDI ARABIA (3-0). SPAIN v BULGARIA (8-0). NIGERIA v PARAGUAY (8-0).

©Published by Independent Newspapers (UK) Limited, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour
Print, St Albans Road, Watford.

Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370.

Wednesday 24 June 1998

Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

Ronaldo's not all he's cracked up to be.

Ronaldo. He's all right.

Shearer, Sheringham, Owen. Admittedly, not at all bad.

But if asked to say who's making the biggest contribution to World Cup 98, it's got to be Hewlett-Packard. No question. OK, let's be honest, they can't play football. Against HP even the Jamaican defence would have smiles on their faces.

The technology behind the scenes of the World Cup is on an awesome scale. And everything, from the largest UNIX server down to the printer

that prints the referee's pass, has been provided and run by Hewlett-Packard. Without it, the World Cup simply couldn't take place.

To find out the full facts about HP's World Cup, you can visit them at www.hpworlcup.com.

And to see their top performers in action, there is no better place than the Morse Enterprise Computing Centre. You will find us at www.morse.co.uk or you can call us on 0800 228888.

HEWLETT
PACKARD

MORSE

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WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

To most British sports fans Michael Jordan is just another famous American basketball player who, in his spare time, flogs Nike trainers. In fact, Michael Jordan is a one-man merchandising phenomenon, the greatest player in the game every sports superstar in the world wants to play and win: brand promotion. He's been called "the human billboard", and some say that this handsome, six-foot, 35-year-old black man is one of the best friends that white American capitalism ever had.

And if that sounds a little over the top, consider this: In 1993, Jordan retired from basketball to play baseball. On 9 March 1995, a rumour that Michael was about to return to basketball began to race around Wall Street. Suddenly the combined stock-market value of companies whose products were endorsed by Jordan rose by \$1bn. That's right: one man, one rumour, \$1bn.

Compare that to Ronaldo, the Brazilian striker, probably the world's best known footballer, who earns £10m a year from fees and sponsorship by Nike, Pirelli and others.

Even Desmond Lynam, currently enjoying cult status as Britain's favourite sports commentator, who is putting his face to five ad campaigns including Right Guard and Miracle Grow, is said to be earning a comparatively paltry £160,000.

What does that tell us about America's love of sport and the power of celebrity over millions of consumers? Has the land of the free become the home of the sucker who will snap up anything a superstar like Jordan is paid to sell?

Over the past decade Jordan's name has been used to sell shower curtains, aprons, travel mugs, tissue holders, flashlights, edible cake decorations, foam furniture, McDonald's, Quaker Oats, Nike trainers, cars - I could go on for ever. So let's just say that with the exception of vibrators and nipple rings, Jordan has promoted nearly every product the American public could possibly want.

These days Jordan is far more selective about what he will promote. He concentrates on a dozen or so products such as Nike, Sara Lee, Quaker Oats and his own Michael Jordan fragrance. He still managed to earn around \$70m last year.

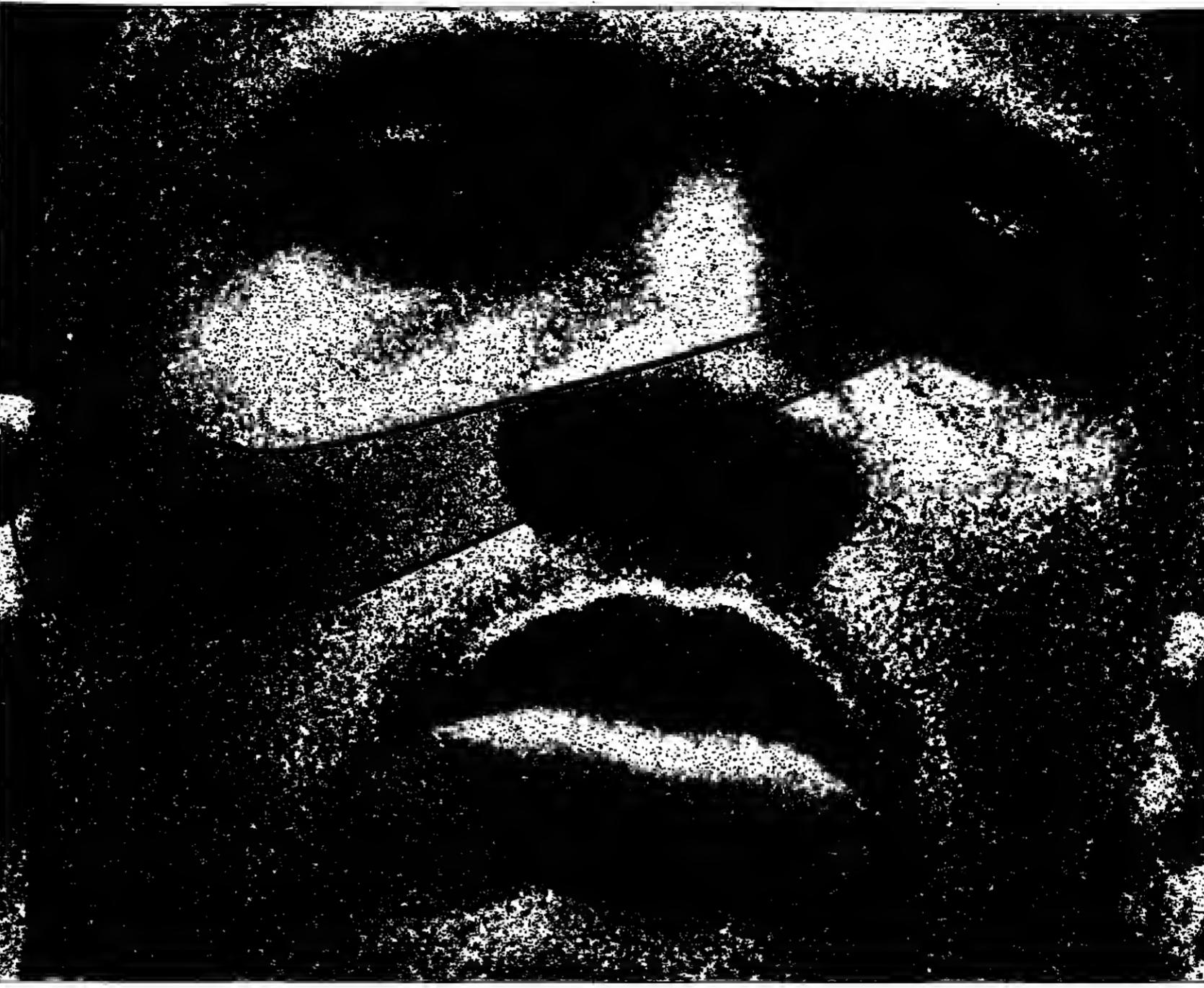
Jordan has the kind of celebrity kudos that can turn an entire company from a second-rate business to a major player in a chosen market. Early in his career, an ailing trainer company called Nike signed up Jordan for around \$2.5m to promote a new type of Michael-inspired trainer called the Air Jordan. By the end of the first year, revenues had reached \$130m. It was the most successful trainer launch in history. Today, Nike has 40 per cent of the American trainer market under its control - thanks to Michael.

So how do we explain the Jordan phenomenon? Why does Gatorade pay him \$16m to be associated with their drink? America is not exactly short of sporting superstars with merchandising muscle or smart sport agents who can cut multi-million-dollar deals every day of the week. Why is Michael the \$70m man?

For starters, you don't have to be a fan of his team, the Chicago Bulls, to concede that Jordan is a basketball genius. Never mind his past triumphs; today, at the age of 35 - which in basketball terms makes you an OAP - Jordan has been the highest scorer in the NBA this season. He's won every award going in the game. His sporting talent has taken him beyond basketball glory; Jordan has become, as *Time* magazine put it, "the greatest athlete in the history of American sports".

And in a country as socially and culturally fragmented as America, sport - unlike pop music or movies - is the one form of popular entertainment that transcends divisions of class, race or money. During the NBA Championships or the World Series in baseball, divided America becomes one nation under the spell of a sporting spectacle.

This gives a sporting celebrity such as Michael Jordan an obvious advantage



Half man, half logo

Ronaldo (size 9, \$16m) may be the biggest thing to hit the World Cup, but he's not ready to step into the shoes of Michael Jordan (size 12, \$70m). At the grand old age of 35, the basketball star is still the king of the sports world, a human billboard, the face (and the feet) of Nike, a one-man merchandising machine the like of which the world has never seen

BY COSMO LANDESMAN

over a Pepsi-promoting pop star like Michael Jackson, who has a relatively limited fan base founded on the appeal of his type of music. Jordan's appeal goes right across the spectrum of sport. But this doesn't explain the appeal of Michael Jordan over other basketball superstars such as Magic Johnson and John Stockton.

Jordan has his own theory as to why he's been such a successful product promoter: "When I come into contact with people, I think they see me as a genuine person... I'm a people person."

And that's an important factor in explaining the Jordan phenomenon. By genuine we mean real, authentic, devoid of pretension or that other great American sin - phoniness. Johnson has the in-built

sincerity that a brand promoter needs to sell to a mass audience.

Americans like their sporting heroes to have the common touch, to remain one of the people. Being genuine is what makes a sporting genius like Jordan seem like a regular guy that Joe Six-Pack can trust and relate to. Right from his early days with Nike, Jordan has been marketed as a man who understands the anxieties and aspirations of the common man. A 1977 Nike ad campaign featured Jordan failing to get the ball into the net during various games.

"I've failed over and over again in my life. And that's why I succeed," says Michael.

For Americans, with their fear of failure, it was the ultimate feel-good message. It was as if Jordan were putting his arm

around the shoulder of every sad, disappointed American, saying, "Hey buddy, I know how you must feel. But you can do it, 'cause I did it too."

But why has Jordan remained the number one hero of black America for so long? Look at the alternatives, and what do you see? Michael Jackson fighting charges of molesting children; Mike Tyson convicted of rape; Magic Johnson infected with AIDS; OJ Simpson tried for murder; even Mr Clean himself, Bill Cosby, was involved in a paternity suit. Almost by default, Johnson has had the black hero market to himself.

It may seem strange that the most visible face of white American capitalism is black. Some commentators claim that blackness makes Jordan an icon of cool.

They see him as the black man every white man would like to be - six feet of physical perfection, athletic power and sexual prowess. If Limfie Christie has a lunch box, then Michael Jordan must be blessed with a two-ton lorry full of goodies. Or so some people like to think.

In fact, Jordan has managed to be such a marketing phenomenon because he is not seen by white America as someone who is black. That doesn't mean that he's tried to pass for white; it's just that being black for Jordan is no big deal. He's never been associated with black causes, or set himself up as a spokesman for the black community. Michael is a "people person" rather than a professional black man.

The man responsible for managing

such a marketing phenomenon because he is not seen by white America as someone who is black. That doesn't mean that he's tried to pass for white; it's just that being black for Jordan is no big deal. He's never been associated with black causes, or set himself up as a spokesman for the black community. Michael is a "people person" rather than a professional black man.

While it is true that some campaigns - such as Gary Lineker's one for Walkers Crisps - have been highly successful, there's a great deal of doubt about the effectiveness of using celebrities to sell brands. Academic research suggests that there is not necessarily any link between stars and the success of the products they are selling. It seems that the British are not so enslaved to the culture of celebrity - not even the sporting kind - as the Americans. And that is surely a victory for everyone who wants sporting heroes without all the brand-promoting hype.

INSIDE

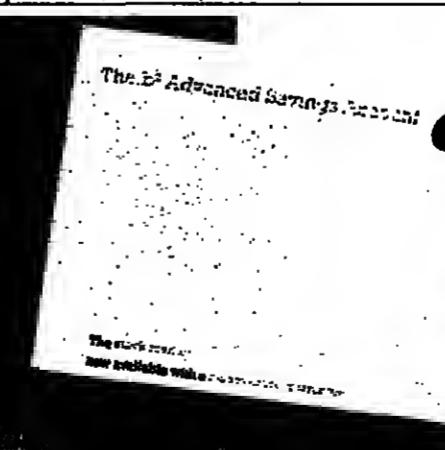
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IT HAS been some time now since I heard from my old friend Talbot Church, the former court correspondent whose heart-warming experiences once earned him the sobriquet "The Man the Royals Trust" but who fell from grace following the publication of his royal wedding pamphlet, *101 Things You Didn't Know about the Royal Lovebirds*.

Now he's back, bearing exciting news for historians of the future. It appears that, during a routine trawl through the dustbins at Clarence House in 1993, Talbot came across a bin-liner full of old letters. They were in a poor state - some of the papers were torn, others were charred by cigarette burns - but, over the subsequent years, he has managed to piece them together into some kind of order.



TERENCE BLACKER

brings you the Queen Mum's private letters

Only this weekend has the significance of his discovery become apparent. These papers are none other than the remains of the Queen Mother's private correspondence which, in an excess of tidy-mindedness, Princess Margaret is reported to have thrown away. As a teaser for interested publishers, Talbot has agreed to make available a few incomplete fragments of letters from the Queen Mother to her beloved second daughter.

Darling Margaret, What a sweet little man your Townsend is. I did like the way he bowed to me - you can tell a lot about a man from the way he bows. What exactly is a group captain. I never know. Somewhere between a captain and a major, I suppose. When can I -

Dear Margaret, No, sorry, not on. Foot well and truly down. I could just about accept Elizabeth marrying a naval officer but RAF - I'll probably start wearing one of those ghastly moustaches and say things like "Ticketybo" and "Down the hatch". We'll tell everyone it's because he's a divorce but you and I will know that it was far more serious than -

- cannot believe I lost the Grand National all because of that hopeless little man Dick Francis. Devon Loch was miles clear when Francis decided to wave to someone on the rails - naturally, my darling DL took fright and did the splits. Francis came in claiming that the horse was jumping over a shadow. Honestly, that man lives in a world of his own - can't think what's going to become of him. Have you heard Tommy Steele's latest, "Little White Bull"? It did make me laugh. Your loving Mama.

Darling, I know you like to encourage the staff but I do wonder whether it's wise taking your gardener Roddy to Mustique - even if, as you say, you are very partial to his hardy perennials. Another thing you can help me with. I read somewhere that one of your set out there, a man called John Bindon, has a party piece which involves "balancing a pint of lager on his toad". This confused me - what exactly is a "toad"? Just met Anne's intended, a man called Foggy. Nice enough, but he made even me feel intelligent, which I can't believe is a good -

- fun seeing the younger generation "letting off steam" on it's a Royal Knockout. Thank goodness that charming Sarah Ferguson has joined the firm - such a breath of fresh air. I was wondering whether I should get in touch with that sweet little man Des O'Connor and suggest I appear on his TV show. I've been working on "Roll Out the Barrel", which always goes down terribly well with the cockneys. What do you -

- come up with a rather brilliant labour-saving idea. We hire a "lookalike" and send her out on birthdays etc pretending to be me, looking frail and adorable and waving at the cockneys. Saves an awful lot of -

Dear Margaret, I can't tell you what fun I've been having. A rather gassy American girl called Kitty Kelley has been coming round for a good old gossip. We play this American game called "Oprah" - she tells me something rather saucy about her family, which I try and top with stories from the firm. I win every time! Talking of Americans, what is this ER people are talking about? Is it my story? I do wish I could make the video machine -

A cannonball possibly originating from Edinburgh Castle found during the Scottish National Trust's renovations of its new HQ in Charlotte Square

Tom Pilston



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Persecuted gays

Sir: Martin Luther King looked forward to the day when his children would be judged not by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character. I look forward to the day when gay and lesbian youngsters are judged not by their sexual orientation but by their character and the quality of their relationships.

The bishops in the House of Lords

who will oppose the equal age of

consent at 16 argue that it would give

"the wrong message" to society

("Peers rally to stop gay sex Bill", 22

June). What message are they

sending: that prejudice and

discrimination is right; that to be gay

is to be less than other people? All of

us, men and women, black and white,

gay and heterosexual are all children

of God. Yet the bishops are sending

the "message" to our gay and lesbian

children that these feelings are

sinful and wicked.

The bishops must accept

responsibility for the consequences

of their action. What impact will their

statement have on those thousands

of adolescents faced with growing

awareness that their deepest feeling

are towards their own sex?

Recognition of beauty in others and

the desire to love is the greatest gift

of God. Yet the bishops are sending

the "message" to our gay and lesbian

children that these feelings are

sinful and wicked.

Their statement will reinforce

the guilt and self-hatred felt by

many gay and lesbian adolescents

and give them the message that the

church, and therefore God, rejects

them. Children who are identified

or labelled as lesbian or gay in

schools often face appalling

bullying. The "message" by the

bishops is support for the

attitudes that inform this

persecution.

SIR: BONHAM

Leicester

model? Clergy of the Church of

England receive an allowance

(stipend) designed to enable us to

live "neither in poverty nor riches".

currently about £14,000 a year plus a

tied house and good pension

provision. Other income, from

chaplaincies, teaching or letting a

room in the house, is deducted from

the stipend. We are protected from

inflation but do not receive year-on

year increases.

We usually take one day off each

week; the rest of our time is at the

disposal of the church. We are

expected to maintain a portfolio of

theological, liturgical, educational,

pastoral and management skills

which are freely available to all

parishioners.

Upon them, as here and in respect of

the paparazzi involved in the death of

Diana, Princess of Wales, the French

resort to the "fast-track" approach to

get the people to the point of being

charged or exonerated very quickly.

Their system, however, is not

equipped to cope with this; hence the

difficulties described in the article.

JOSIE EDWARDS

London N10

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JOSIE EDWARDS

London N10

Self-help in Africa

Sir: Whilst Paul Valley was right to point out (ISM, 20 June) that the Tonga people have received little support from the Zambian

government since the Kariba dam

was built forty years ago, he gives

the impression that there is no

positive work being done in the

area.

Despite the harsh climate, no

electricity and a lack of roads, there

are some success stories, as

supporters of Harvest Help know.

For 13 years Harvest Help has

supported development projects

with many communities on the

shores of Lake Kariba. Farmers

have introduced new crops, small-

scale irrigation and improved

farming methods to boost food

production. A mobile health clinic

visits communities along the

lakeshore and a rural health centre

was opened last year in Mumyama,

both of which are reducing the

number of child deaths. Over three

thousand children have benefited

from primary education in an area

previously without schools.

All these initiatives have received

some support from the Zambian

government, but the driving force

behind the work is the Tonga people

themselves.

ANDREW JOWETT

Director

Harvest Help

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A simple test: will our trains start to run on time?

IT MAY not be the expected route, but the arranged marriage between Richard Branson's Virgin Trains and Brian Souter's Stagecoach bus company provides the first opportunity since privatisation for the integrated transport network so beloved of transport experts. Scrapping plans for a £250m flotation, Mr Branson has instead secured from Stagecoach a £138 million share purchase and an extra £20 million to pay off debts - amounting to 49 per cent of Virgin Trains. The marriage of the flamboyant Mr Branson and the hard-edged Mr Souter is one of circumstance, and it is impossible at this stage to tell whether it is made in heaven or hell.

Mr Branson has spoken of the "synergistic benefits" of the arrangement. If plans to integrate Stagecoach's buses in the Midlands, North-west and Scotland with Virgin's trains live up to the two companies' hype then it will be a good thing. But there are serious doubts - based on past performance - about their ability to deliver what they promise.

When the last government privatised the railways it argued that only the private sector could follow Mussolini in making the trains run on time. More than that, a nationalised British Rail would always be low on any list of public spending priorities, however appalling its performance and however obvious its need for greater investment. Money on the scale needed could come only from the private sector. Using a subsidy to attract buyers was one thing; but after a few years, any subsidy would be whittled away and converted into a payment into the Treasury. Britain would have a modern, efficient, well resourced and private railway system.

It is still too soon to tell whether this is just a free marketeer's fantasy, or a credible way to run a transport system. Privatisation certainly has its more absurd side, such as rival companies operating on the same line which go out of their way not to co-operate on schedules or ticketing. And Virgin Trains has been one of the poorest performers. A year ago only 78 per cent of its trains were punctual (although that has now improved to 90 per cent). Everyone has their own privatisation horror story. But in truth many of these are simply rail horror stories, which might have been different but would not have been better under a state-run railway.

Virgin Rail's franchises cover the vital west coast main line between London and Scotland and the cross-country route between Penzance and Aberdeen. Earlier this month it won regulatory approval for a £2.1bn



investment on the west coast line and it is trying to secure £1bn to run "tilting trains" which should cut the London-Glasgow journey time from four hours 54 minutes to three hours 49 minutes. The subsidy of £224.4m which Virgin Rail receives today has to be turned into a payment to the Treasury of £230.3m by the time the franchise runs out in the year 2012 - a pretty onerous task, and one that is dependent on decent performance.

If Virgin Trains fail to deliver, then it will not just be Mr Branson and Mr Souter who are in trouble. The Government, even if it wanted to, does not have the money for a major rescue of the railways - let alone for re-nationalisation. The rail franchising director, John

O'Brien, is expected to insist on additional investment and passenger facilities before approving the merger, and that is all to the good.

The success of privatisation will be judged pretty straightforwardly. Are there enough trains? Do they run on time? Are they comfortable? Are they competitive? A positive answer to all of these questions is a prerequisite to any of the Deputy Prime Minister's plans for reducing car traffic. The Labour Party opposed privatisation but is now stuck with it, so when Mr Prescott publishes his transport White Paper next month he will be as anxious as any Conservative for the experiment to succeed.

Shameful abuse of the mentally ill

THE INDEPENDENT inquiry into sexual and physical abuse at the Longcare home in Buckinghamshire has been a long time in coming. The *Independent* first exposed the catalogue of crimes that Gordon Rowe and his colleagues subjected the helpless residents of his supposed care home to some four years ago, and it is a disgrace that we have had to wait until now for an inquiry. Buckinghamshire County Council deserves no credit for its eventual appearance. If it was not for the orders of Paul Boateng, the health minister, we would still be waiting. Their four year attempt to stop an inquiry was shameful.

The tragedy of this case is that it should never have happened. These were not secret crimes. Over ten years' evidence existed, showing that something was amiss. The council were repeatedly warned. But they did nothing. Although we seem to be confronted with such cases all the time, this case was made worse by the fact that the victims were not children but mentally handicapped adults. As a result of the plethora of child abuse cases, there are now reasonably firm procedures in place. When a case falls through the net, it is usually because of a failure to implement properly these procedures. The inquiry into Longcare shows that nothing like as much rigour is attached to the care of the mentally handicapped.

Under the Mental Health Act as it stands, the maximum sentence for neglect is two years. The inquiry recommends that a new ten year maximum sentence for harming and exploiting the mentally handicapped is introduced. At the very least, this should serve as a marker that such abuse should never happen. In addition, we need urgently to implement a much tighter system of registration and inspection. Without it, we will almost certainly see the emergence of more Gordon Rowes.

A sad club

POOR RACHEL Anderson. Britain's only licensed football players' agent has twice been refused entry to the Professional Footballers Association's men-only awards dinner and she has now had her case raised in the House of Lords. Naturally, if she wants to go we support her. But why on earth would any sane woman want to spend an evening with a bunch of drunken, oafish lechers? Perhaps Ms Anderson should invert Groucho Marx's maxim and refuse to be a member of a club that won't have her.

The truth about our spin doctors - they're really not much good

THE VISIT of Alastair Campbell to be quizzed by a Parliamentary committee will most probably get more column inches than any other event of the week, including even cutting the age of consent for gay men. Parliament was awash with speculation about how the mighty Alastair would perform. MPs seemed as excited and impressed as if we were a remote medieval monastery being visited by the Vatican's Cardinal secretary of state, the real power behind the throne of holy mother church.

Spin doctoring is not new however. It is merely the new name for a very old art. Anybody who has read of how Joe Kennedy intimidated and bribed journalists and TV companies into showing his sons in the best possible light will recognise all the old tricks in their modern form.

Of course, not many of today's spin doctors have the sort of money that allowed Joe Kennedy to drive around Washington in November 1958 buying up every available copy of *Time* magazine merely because the front cover displayed Hubert Humphrey, at that time John Kennedy's main rival for the Democratic nomination.

What seems to have created a rather unpleasant atmosphere around the spin doctors is that nowadays most of their efforts seem to be devoted to rubbishing members of their own party. Recently we have seen the systematic off-the-record rubbishing of David Clark and Chris Smith in the hope that this will open the way for a few vacancies in the Cabinet.

Even more cynical has been the way in which potential Labour candidates for mayor have been built up

only to be rubbished when they fail to overtake me in the polls. Thus in the space of just a few weeks we are first told that Glenda Jackson will be a formidable candidate only to discover that she is "too wooden".

This week the same fate befell Trevor Phillips. Having been given the high-profile role of organising the Yes campaign in the London referendum, the same spin doctors and back room "experts" who advised him throughout have been the very people briefing the press about the education of his children in a private school.

Nor is it only the minor players on the Labour stage who get treated this way. No one is ever likely to forget Number 10's rubbishing of Gordon Brown as "psychologically flawed" following the publication of his authorised biography.

Although spin doctors are very good at spinning about their own impotence, when we examine the record, they're actually not much good. On the morning following the rebellion of 47 Labour MPs against the cut in single-parent child benefit, I listened on the radio to one of the last items on the Today programme that I was to be suspended from the Labour Party for leading the rebellion. As the rebellion had been very ably led by Andrew Wise and Lynne Jones, and I had only had a walk-on role, I put this down to a touch of sexism.

Given that I had spoken to the Labour Chief Whip the night before and had been impressed by his passionate belief that we had to put the row behind us and that he would do all he could do to unite the party, I couldn't

believe that I was headed for the chop. I thought I had better check to be sure, so I cancelled my early morning meeting and went straight into the Whips Office where I was told not to worry - the story had come from David Hill the spin doctor in Number 10 who seemed to be trying to create the impression that we were about to get the sack of the government. No one from Number 10 had checked with the whips about whether they planned to take action, but because David Hill was one of the most senior spin doctors it was inevitable that he would lead BBC news bulletins.

The problem with the power of the spin doctors is that allied with the ambition of Labour MPs for office, we end up with the suppression of open public debate. The need to be "on-message" and supportive in all circumstances makes Question Time

a rather sick joke. This is being reinforced every time some ambitious wannabe trot out garbage which is not only inaccurate but something they themselves clearly don't believe in. The best example recently was the soon-to-be Lord Toby Harris's explanation that the low turnout in the referendum on the London mayor was caused by voters being disturbed about speculation of who would be the candidate!

Before the General Election, Labour's most damaging row was over Harriet Harman's choice of school for one of her children. Labour spin doctors were warned of this story in the run-up to Christmas but took no action until the issue blew up in their face in the New Year when parliament was in full session.

Any cynical spin doctor worth their pay would have had the good sense to give the story to the paper two days before Christmas knowing that it is almost impossible to revive a story after the Christmas break when parliament isn't sitting.

The dramatic and much more damaging row over whether or not we were going to join monetary union when it starts in 1999 showed the problems of having too many spin doctors spinning for different masters.

It is not, of course, just politicians who get bullied by the spin doctors. Their main target is journalists. Screaming obscenities at journalists and withholding stories from them as a form of punishment has slowly had its effect. I am now surprised by how many journalists are prepared to reveal their confidential sources.

To curb the spin doctors, editors

and producers could learn from an incident back in 1985. Bernie Grant, then leader of Haringey Council, and myself, were invited by the BBC TV South East News with the Metropolitan Commissioner of Police, Sir Kenneth Newman. We were both delighted as Sir Kenneth had refused ever to be held publicly accountable for his policies.

When Sir Kenneth arrived, his press officer was appalled to realise that Sir Kenneth was not to be interviewed on his own and even worse would be questioned by Bernie and I. The press officer furiously rounded on the BBC producer: "Sir Kenneth is not appearing with those shits". The BBC producer stood his ground and pointed out that we were elected representatives of Londoners and if Sir Kenneth wasn't prepared to appear, his chair would be left empty and the presenter would announce why.

The time has come for editors and producers to form a cartel to resist the spin doctors. They need to agree together to reduce the amount of anonymous briefing they are prepared to report and insist that in future these stories must be attributed.

They should also agree that they will not allow politicians or spin doctors to be told the nature of questions in advance of interview or influence the choice of interviewer. Sadly, given the closeness of New Labour to so many figures in the media such a cartel is going to remain my private fantasy. The only other way to curtail the problem is if Tony Blair decides he wants to. He could start being extremely rude to all the brown-nosers at Question Time.

Has
something
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MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

The violence in Lens involving German football fans

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

The violence committed by German rowdies is a reminder that this kind of modern vandalism is not confined to England. Chancellor Kohl was right to speak of a "dis-



files this World Cup. A policeman has been left for dead, showered with blows from iron bars wielded by a commando of German hooligans. Whether English or German, football doesn't excite them; it merely shelters them with guilty complicity.

Stadtkirche Zeitung
The Hitler salute, often divorced from its political connotations, is guaranteed to provoke riots quickly, and is being used for that effect. German hooligans have laid claim to a means of provocation available only to Ger-

mans - and immediately understandable everywhere. Intelligence experts say they have no indication of neo-Nazi infiltration of the hooligan scene... but it is time to stop assuming that concerted far-right violence represents no political danger.

Le Figaro, France
The World Cup will overcome. Hundreds of thousands of people will still be impassioned by football and their cheers will echo around the stadiums while the forces of law and order stand at the ready.

Die Welt, Germany
Hooligans cannot be rehabilitated because they will never learn. That's nothing new. Hooligans are neither typically German nor British. They are incorrigible. It is remarkable how few European-wide steps were taken to prevent this; it almost seems as if there were no European Union.

L'Est Républicain, France
We should recognise once and for all that this detestable behaviour has become indissociable from that leather ball. Those who despise the

sport can only conclude that it acts as a battleground for the faithless, lawless brutes who respect nothing, not even the lives of others.

Bild Zeitung, Germany
A French policeman lies in a coma, beaten up in the most brutal manner by German rioters. I am ashamed of these inexcusable outrages. It makes me furious how some violent criminals drag the image of Germans abroad through the mud. This cancer of the modern football world must be removed.

grace to our country". Nevertheless, grand statements only underline how helpless we feel towards this.

Le Monde, France
This time it's different, much worse - a blood stain now de-

PANDORA

IT SEEMED almost that Peter Temple-Morris's final break from the Conservative Party was foreseen by the organisers of the Three Counties Show in Malvern last week. The Leominster MP had been told that he was to be seated at Table 1 with the President of the Three Counties Agricultural Society. However, Temple-Morris was just about to sit down when he was led away by the event director to Table 14. Perhaps the move was just as well, as William Hague was sitting on Table 3. All parties have denied that the Hague camp was instrumental in this. Had they been in closer proximity, Temple-Morris said: "He would have nodded to me and I would have nodded to him". Surely that would depend on whether Hague had got wind of the MP's impending defection.

other staple food of laddism, the kebab, was munched on thoughtfully as "Anarchy in the UK" played over the sound system.

AT THE same time, England's finest demonstrated their "martial spirit" in Toulouse after their team's defeat to Romania. Unfortunately, MP Alan Clark, at the centre of controversy over the fans' behaviour, has no plans as yet to publish any more books on his pet subject, military history. "I don't know what his next project might be," said his office. Alan may be missing a trick here - how about *The Charge of the Light Brigade?*

WATCH OUT for revolutionary insurrection in the British Library. The Queen is due to open the new building tomorrow, meaning that the Library will be shut for the day. A leftist group called "The rank and file British Library Reader" has issued a pamphlet moralising that perhaps Her Majesty might "use her day in the Library productively to read up on books dealing with the decline of the monarchy". The pamphlet is even more radical in criticising the restaurant for having the bourgeois cheek to charge £2.80 for an egg sandwich. Agent provocateur is none other than Keith Flett, a recent subject of *Newsnight* which reported on his prolific turnover of letters to the press in support of various noble causes including the "Beard Liberation Front". Asked if he was simply a professional agitator, he said: "I am a trade union official, so I suppose that is one facet of it. Never a truer word."

NEW YORK'S mayor Rudy Giuliani held a party at his home last week to celebrate Israel's 50th Anniversary. Mort Zuckerman, owner of the *New York Daily News* lavished Giuliani with praise at the event saying "it is not unusual that the mayor of New York has opened up his home; he has long been a great supporter of the state of Israel". He added that Giuliani was "a person who has shown up at absolutely every occasion on behalf of the state of Israel. He lends his very powerful voice in the cause of... hacking Israel's right to exist". Praise indeed. Perhaps this was all a reaction (as rival the *New York Post* gleefully points out) to a *Daily News* cartoon published the day before. The cartoon mocked City Hall's plan for an emergency command centre, depicting Giuliani as Adolf Hitler, sitting in a bunker with an aide saying "Uh, Rudy, there's an Eva Braun to see you." Oops.

KEITH ALLEN, comedian and actor, was a very unhappy man last night. England's dismal failure against Romania did not go down well at an event loosely designed to promote the Canal Building development in Islington. The co-creator of the World Cup anthem "Vindaloo" bravely gave an encore after England's defeat. Despite the show of strength Allen and Blu's Damon Albarn (pictured) were visibly gutted. Not the best time to ask Allen about the artistic integrity of this moronic tune? No. "It's not a p***ing hooligan song, it's a football song. The reason that the right hijacked Jerusalem is that it's emotive. This is a people's song," Allen gently pointed out. "Vindaloo" and "Jerusalem": odd comparison. No curry was served, but that

WHERE HAS she gone, the cynosure of Sun readers' eyes who sparked Clare Short's campaign for a law to cover her up and a thousand student union protest motions?

There are grounds for concern about the safety of the Page 3 girl. Her appearance in the past few weeks has been suspiciously sporadic. Yesterday, she was supplanted with a charming photograph of a World Cup supporter holding up an England flag emblazoned with the words: "Darling - I got a ticket! See U in three weeks."

Here is a refreshingly different portrayal of the heterosexual relationship than a picture of Raunchy Roseanne wearing a back-to-front swimsuit, oiled nipples and an expression of boundless goodwill. It would bring a smile to the face of all readers, not just a leer to the lips of the more predictable male.

Page 3 is becoming *The Sun's* Clause IV. Modernisers inside the paper want to ditch it, to the fury of traditionalists

stem, the paper's circulation woes. There is something fascinating about the decline of a national icon which has inspired loyalty and outrage for so long in equally fervent measure. When I embarked on exhaustive research about the reasons for Page 3's demotion (this column spares itself no exertion), *The Sun's* response was the strangely anxious David Yelland, the new Edi-

tor issued the following on-the-record quote from New York, specifically for *soaraway Independent* readers: "There are a lot of surprises in store at *The Sun*. It's a great read and it's only 28 pence."

This reminds me of the kind of communiqué they used to issue after Eastern Bloc politburos had changed course but were damned if they were going to admit it. The paper has already run a defensive leading article: "Yes folks, the breast is yet to come." Tabloidologists promptly concluded that a mammary-war was raging inside the paper.

Why should the people who steer the destiny of Britain's top-selling daily paper be so unsure about the future of their prize asset?

The readiness to review Page 3 gives us reason to be cheerful about the decline of a national icon which has inspired loyalty and outrage for so long in equally fervent measure. When I embarked on exhaustive research about the reasons for Page 3's demotion (this column spares itself no exertion), *The Sun's* response was the strangely anxious David Yelland, the new Edi-

Please Your Man in Bed, the natural pendant to Get a Load of These. The feminist cry: "What about me?" seems, finally to be making itself heard even in the bastion of working-class culture.

The second encouraging sign is that those feminists who believed that the only way to achieve this turn of events was by signing petitions, trying to pass laws and banning publications from libraries were wrong. Heaping the opprobrium of non-Sun-reading women on the title had no impact at all. Indeed, Miss Short's campaign and associated jihad against topless pictures probably helped to prolong the sloth of life by making it a rallying cause.

The Page 3 girl is the victim not of revolution but of evolution in taste and the perception of female attractiveness. She is vulnerable because she looks increasingly old-fashioned. Soon, she will seem as dated as a 1980s bathing beauty. She is static in a world full of movement. She invites the gaze of others while photographed doing nothing.

That used to be enough for the aspirants who queued for a chance to seduce the lens. But feminism

works in subtle and mysterious ways. The latter-day pin-ups - first *Sex Fox*, then *Melinda Messenger* - exploited the platform provided by their tabloid exploiters to pursue their own ambitions. Without warning, they upped and walked off the page, out of newspaper apace.

I have a sneaky idea that *The Sun's* market research is telling it that fewer teenage girls aspire to become topless models than 10 years ago. It no longer inspires the wannabes who would rather be Spice Girls than Page 3 girls. Spice Girls go round the world, suck their managers, have rows. They are frenetically active, not passive recipients of the stares of others.

Girl power is a tightly circumscribed version of female emancipation; but it is not without force. It is through popular culture that small girls first get to see women outside the roles of mother or teacher. If silly, static, sexist Page 3 disappears from the country's breakfast tables, so much the better. Women buyers find her an irritation; male ones are bored by her. She is yesterday's girl, not today's woman.



ANNE
MC ELVOY
*Page 3 is the Sun's
Clause 4. Modernisers
want to ditch it, to the
fury of traditionalists*

At last, Mr Trimble has a Big Idea to sell to Ulster



DAVID
MCKITTRICK
*This course is fraught
with dangers - Unionism
is confused and his own
party is a shambles*

MALONE HOUSE, where on Monday David Trimble depicted a new Unionism based on partnership and mutual respect, commands a view over many County Down drumlins, the little hills that give the countryside its basket-of-eggs appearance.

Esty Evans, an academic with a rare gift for blending geography and history, once related those fertile hills to the politics of the Protestants who farmed them. "I suspect that people living in such closed-in lowlands with restricted horizons tend to have a limited vision and imagination," he wrote.

"I always like to contrast that kind of hidden landscape - Protestant landscape, shall I say? - with the open, naked bogs and hills which are naturally areas of vision and imagination, which are poetic and visionary and which represent the other tradition in Ulster."

David Trimble has long been aware that Ulster Unionism has traditionally suffered from the view that it is negative, defensive and backward-looking; that it needs to climb out of the trenches. Nationalists have had the better tunes, the better poets, the better dreams.

Four years ago, Mr Trimble told loyalists on the Shankill Road that what Unionism desperately needed was a Big Idea to allow it to become pro-active rather than perpetually reactive. He admitted he did not know what this new concept might be.

Back then the Unionist Party was led by James Molyneaux, who took pride in the siege mentality. He once compared his role to that of a general with an army that isn't making anything much in terms of territorial gains but has the satisfaction of repulsing all attacks on the citadel.

This flogging game was clearly not going to suffice in the era of the peace process, and the hope for bright new beginnings. This week,

nearly three years after becoming leader, Mr Trimble depicted a new Unionism based on partnership and mutual respect, commands a view over many County Down drumlins, the little hills that give the countryside its basket-of-eggs appearance.

The speech was studded with words such as diversity, inclusive, tolerance, constructive and respect for each other's traditions. It concluded with a vision of a future "when each may grasp his neighbour's hand as friend". This is not the normal stuff of Unionist speeches; in particular it is not the traditional stuff of speeches made in election campaigns, with voters preparing to go to the polls tomorrow.

Appeals to tribal loyalty are more common than his evocation of a new Northern Ireland "in which pluralist Unionism and constitutional nationalism can speak to each other with the civility that is the foundation of freedom".

Cynics are already saying that this is rhetoric without substance: where they ask, is the appeal to Orangemen to curb their marching instincts, where the explicit readiness

to work with, or even talk to, Sinn Fein without the familiar, blocking pre-conditions.

This was certainly an astute election move. In last month's referendum on the Good Friday agreement, well over 100,000 people turned out who had never voted before. Many of them came because they believed in a more constructive politics was on offer and voted yes.

Mr Trimble clearly wants to inspire them to come out again and to cast their votes for him. He is also looking for SDLP transfers which, under proportional representation, could help him win several valuable seats. Re-casting Unionism in a more constructive light makes sense in terms of electoral tactics.

Yet this is a course fraught with dangers. Unionism is confused and fragmented, its voters spread across five separate parties. His own party is a mess, largely because many of its important members have refused to follow the new Trimble line. His parliamentary party is a shambles, six of his 10 Ulster Unionist MPs in open revolt against him.

He has lost the support of almost all the "baby barristers," the up-and-coming younger members who seemed set to provide the next generation of Unionist MPs. Some senior party members are running against him in the election as anti-agreement independents.

To prevail, he must make a successful appeal to the Unionist electorate over the heads of those who cling to the old order. He is banking on the hope that a clear majority of Protestants are prepared to step into the political unknown.

His judgement on this is probably right. Unionists are accustomed to being inward-looking, conservative, cautious and suspicious of change.

Their traditional political slogans include "No Surrender", "Not an



David Trimble: promoting partnership with nationalists PA

inch", and "What we have we hold". But while this has been the traditional state of affairs it is not necessarily a natural one. Some Unionists actively relish their bigotry, but many others plainly yearn to be rid of the sectarian yoke they have been lumbered with.

Some of that seemed to be in Mr Trimble's mind on Monday. In the early phase of his leadership he attempted to compete with the Rev Ian Paisley, but now he has struck out determinedly for the centre. At Malone House he had the air of someone engaged in something greater than a simple pitch for votes: he gave the sense of a man who had made an important psychological choice.

Embracing the peace process, or even part of its philosophy of inclusiveness, cannot have been easy, for he has spent years opposing it. But he and many Unionists are making a journey from the negative to the positive, a journey all the more instructive for being so painful.

One important turning-point came in March when he and SDLP deputy leader Seamus Mallon went, to new horizons.

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AMONGST THE public at large, it is still not widely known that, since the end of the Cold War, the nature of war has been transformed. Wars are now largely fought within countries rather than between them. Most of today's armed conflicts are taking place in poor countries. And the casualties of war are now overwhelmingly civilians rather than soldiers. One consequence of this historical shift is that vulnerable people, particularly women and children, are now amongst the principal victims of war.

In the past decade alone, an estimated two million children have died in wars and a further six million children have been seriously injured or permanently disabled. But children can also kill, as well as be killed. In perhaps the ultimate corruption of the innocence of childhood, in many recent wars children have been forced to carry out atrocities themselves. In Rwanda, during the genocide of 1994, some children were even forced to kill members of their own families.

Faced with these chilling realities, it is hard not to agree with Graça Machel that "more

and more of the world is being drawn into a desolate moral vacuum... a space devoid of the most basic human values". I want to focus my remarks on three areas.

First, the need to strengthen adherence to international human rights law and the laws of war, amongst both governments and armed opposition groups. In the past, enforcement has focused on states. But we must also ensure that armed opposition groups are held responsible for their war crimes.

A second critical area that I want to highlight concerns the care and rehabilitation of children who have been the victims of war. My Department supports a range of projects to assist children affected by conflict. In northern Uganda we have provided support to children who have been abducted and abused by the Lord's Resistance Army. We have also been involved in Rwanda and Angola in family tracing and reunification programmes. And in various countries we have been involved in the demobilisation of soldiers, including child soldiers.

Prevention is, of course, al-



PODIUM

CLARE SHORT
From a speech given by the International Development Secretary to a UN symposium at the Law Society

ways better than cure. The third area I want to highlight is therefore the need for greater international support to reduce the incidence of violent conflicts, and the involvement of children.

Child protection in war cannot be isolated from the wider conflict prevention and development agenda. A recent paper by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee lists the 34 developing

countries furthest away from the poverty eradication targets. Twenty of these countries are either in the midst of armed conflict or have only recently emerged from it. While there is no simple formula for preventing wars or for peace building, we know the conditions that tend to generate fighting.

We know that where people suffer economic marginalisation and where inequalities are growing, the risks of violent conflict are higher.

Our development approach is therefore geared to promoting a pattern of economic growth that benefits all sections of society, alongside support for good governance, human rights and the law.

Reducing the risks of armed conflict also should involve tighter controls over the flow of arms, particularly small arms and ammunition, to regions of tension. The British government has been instrumental in getting agreement to a European Code of Conduct on arms exports. We are also taking action on illicit arms flows and flows of ammunition.

We must search more actively for a means of building

peace and development in Somalia, Angola, Sierra Leone and other war-torn countries.

It is not good enough for us to

provide humanitarian assistance until conflicts burn themselves out.

Those of us who are anxious

to minimise the use of force

often call for the use of sanctions instead of military action.

While the purpose of sanctions

is to push rogue governments

into better behaviour, it is too

often innocent civilians, particularly children, who bear the cost of sanctions.

We need to identify "smarter sanctions" that safeguard the innocent and provide the most effective levers to influence those governments breaching humanitarian norms.

My department has undertaken some preliminary work on this issue.

I am keen that we develop a more informed debate

that helps to refine sanctions.

To conclude, great injustice

and cruelty often produce

anger and despondency in equal measure. But cruelty against children elicits still deeper feelings of outrage. Our common task is to surely turn that outrage into action.

كلنا من الأصل

Page 3?

When divorce is best for children



SUZANNE MOORE
We need to learn
how to make up
families as well as
how to tear them apart

EVERYONE KNOWS what is bad for children these days. Artificial additives, Teletubby overload and, of course, divorce. The children of divorcing parents will be aggressive, withdrawn and anxious. They may suffer low self-esteem, wet the bed, take drugs and many years later end up reproducing such misery by failing to sustain long-term relationships. Fathers lose contact with children, mothers become poorer, and boys especially suffer.

If all of this, or indeed any of it, is true, then we need to worry, as already one in five children experiences the separation of their parents. To judge by recent rates of divorce, four in ten new marriages will not be till death us do part. Are we therefore producing generations of socially distressed misfits who pay the price for their parents' selfishness? It all depends on where you stand - both personally and politically. Those with direct experience of divorce understand that this is an immensely fraught and complex issue with no easy answers. Those with a political axe to grind cite various surveys to show that divorce inevitably damages children.

In a right-wing scenario, divorce is the product of a quest for individual gratification at the expense of the well-being of children. It is part of modern society's inability to compromise personal happiness for the sake of the social good. I have always rather liked Auberon Waugh's comment that the children of divorced parents should be put to death, as it seems the logical conclusion of much Conservative buffing and puffing. Those who want to find fuel for this argument need only read Hanif Kureishi's recent novella, *Intimacy*. Here they can find almost a parody of a self-obsessed and immature man who leaves his partner and children because he really is an existentialist, and really has a younger girlfriend.

The "liberal" view on divorce, which obviously I share, though divorce is not a personal favourite of mine, is one I would categorise as pro-choice. Divorce is a fact of life and clearly related to female economic independence. People get out of marriages in greater numbers than ever before because they can afford to. I do not see how couples who loathe each other can be persuaded to stay together for the sake of the children although, of



Many studies find that children are more likely to do well in lone-parent families than they are in step-families

course, I know of arrangements in which this supposedly works. One of my best friends was brought up by parents who never spoke to each other directly. I would not describe her as the best adjusted of people. In fact some of the neediest characters I have ever encountered were once the very children that their parents stayed together "for the sake of".

Over the years, though, everyone has latched on to certain pieces of research to shore up their own

feelings about divorce. A new study produced by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation serves a useful purpose in reviewing 200 studies from the last three decades. Some of them contradict each other; some have no control groups or are based on tiny samples, some are inconclusive. Overwhelmingly, however, I would suggest that they tell us what we already know. First, it's impossible to isolate the one factor in a child's life that serves as a sole cause of disadvantage. Do the children of di-

orce suffer more because they are likely to be living with their mothers on less money and in poorer housing, or because they are emotionally traumatised by their parents' separation? Where the report is useful, is in dispelling certain myths about divorce. It does not appear to be true, for instance, that boys are more severely affected and therefore more inclined to be delinquent than girls; it's just that in the general population boys are more inclined to be delinquent than girls.

When children do appear to suffer it is more to do with material deprivation than with divorce. The Rowntree report finds, when it compares educational attainment of the children of "intact families" to the children of divorced families, that there is no real difference when socio-economic factors have been taken into account. In the words of the report, there is "no simple or direct relationship between parental separation and children's adjustment".

Herbie Knot

The glaring subtext of this study is that what is best for children is not divorce but poverty. I think it is important that we understand this. Instead of having government increasingly trying to regulate our private lives and various moralists trying to turn the clock back, we need to realise that the impoverishment of women and children has to be addressed if we really do care about the future of our children.

We more or less know already what a "good" divorce is. Those who view divorce as a process rather than a single event are more likely to be able to support their children. Conflict, rather than separation itself, is bad for children. Parental death does not carry the same risks for children as divorce. Most children wish that their parents could stay together but if they can't, they want to maintain contact with both parents. The quality of that contact is as important as the quantity. Younger children tend to fare better than older ones, but those who fare best are those who are told what is going on. The development of non-adversarial techniques for parents is extremely important if divorcing couples are not to end up divorcing their children.

It is also easier for children today in that they are less stigmatised by their parent's separation. When I fell over at school my PE teacher was so shocked that I had a different surname to my mother's, as she had remarried, that instead of taking me to hospital she quizzed me about what it was like to come from a "broken home". Was it painful? Yes, I eventually screamed, for I was less concerned about my broken bone than my broken wrist.

What this study inadvertently highlights is not just the effect of divorce but the reality of Nineties Britain, where increasing numbers of children live in step-families. Adults may create step-families in the hope that they will simply replicate and replace nuclear families. This is not the case, and step-families may not always be good for children. Indeed, many studies find that children are likely to do better in lone-parent families than they are in step-families. Inevitably, as serial monogamy takes over the step-family will be increasingly common. In the US, which has a lower divorce rate than ours, it is estimated that one third of all children will be stepchildren.

It is this, I suggest, that we should concentrate on when we look seriously at the consequences of divorce. The restructuring of families, as well as their breakdown, can be damaging. Though this may be the way we live now, there is still little acknowledgement of the real diversity of family life.

Pundits and politicians still talk of the undermining of family life and marriage as though family life meant exactly the same thing to everyone. Yet who are these people who split up and reconstitute themselves, if not families? We need to learn how to make up families as well as how to tear them apart, for divorce is no longer the final curtain, just the end of the first act.

RIGHT OF REPLY

CHARLES LEADBEATER



The think-tank Demos responds to our recent coverage of its controversial ideas

FOR A think-tank, press coverage is a double-edged sword. Think-tanks need headlines. But, on the other hand, a journalist filling a story needs to make a story interesting. Often this means turning a speculative half-sentence in a 40,000-word report into a hasty proposal - whether it's the suggestion of 10-year marriages, the right of children to veto divorces or a supposed justification for journalists to stalk.

The coverage in *The Independent* of our report on the family illustrates these points nicely. It was honest and fair by the standards of most press coverage but inevitably most of it consisted of a few colourful comments taken out of context, while the more fundamental points, about how little we as a society value the work done by families, largely got lost.

It's interesting to compare the media coverage with our real impact. In Demos's case, 90 per cent of the most important work has been done away from the glare of the media. Often we have found that the little-noticed reports have turned out to be most useful to practitioners.

The media also likes to use labels. Today many journalists like to describe Demos as a new Labour think-tank, yet most senior Labour figures have seen us as dangerously radical and heretical. Demos has at one time or another upset almost every part of the modern establishment: from right-wing tabloids to university feminists.

We don't complain about how the media treats us, although we have been vilified. It is far better to think imaginatively, than it is to fall into what are still too often the besetting sins of British public life, that combination of smug complacency and corrosive cynicism that sees it always as cleverer to be against things than to undertake the harder job of thinking how things could be different.

A life as a Gothic fantasy

WEDNESDAY BOOK



WILLIAM BECKFORD: COMPOSING FOR MOZART
BY TIMOTHY MOWL, JOHN MURRAY, £22

may not understand what a grey area is, but he recognises the value of sensationalism.

No one has seriously doubted that Beckford was attracted to adolescents. Even in 1957, Alexander Boyd's *Life of Beckford* has an extensive index entry for "Boys". It is worth noting for the sake of historical context that one 14-year-old "strpling" he admired already had an

18-year-old wife. But then Mowl also describes Beckford as a "barely socialised psychopath", a judgement his book does nothing to substantiate.

Although Beckford was married when the scandal broke, and his wife died by him, he was forced into temporary exile. His attempt to return to England after her death was thwarted by his disapproving mother, who ordered

him to Jamaica, where the family owned extensive sugar plantations.

Beckford got as far as Lisbon, where he wrote a frank and amusing journal which Mowl judges "the best English travel book of the 18th century". Unfortunately Beckford felt unable to publish the journal, written "without any attempt to either dramatise or conceal his sexual nature", during his lifetime.

In Portugal Beckford was introduced to a 17-year-old Italian music student, Gregorio Franchi, who fell in love with him and became the recipient of his most unguarded, amusing letters. Beckford eventually returned to England and set about building Fonthill, a house modelled as a cathedral and dedicated to his beloved St Anthony of Padua.

He was dubbed by Byron "England's wealthiest son", but by the time building began under the supervision of James Wyatt, revenues from the plantations, which in his father's time had brought in £30,000-£100,000 a year, had dwindled alarmingly. Beckford's ambitions soared with the abbey: a 276-ft octagonal tower was added "propped up not by buttresses but by bedrooms, a crazy supporting zigzag of bachelor rooms" - with inevitable results.

It would be hard to write a dull book about Beckford, but this one has its longueurs. Despite a pompous announcement that it is "intended for the informed, intelligent reader", he does not always write sensibly or well - though he does make a case for Beckford's secure place in the history of English aesthetics. "Beckford's imagination was not commonplace," he writes, "it was commanding. He built what he dreamed, and over his 84 years he dreamed his way with a flexible sensibility across the whole range of Romantic feeling, usually several years in advance of the great Romantic poets."

PETER PARKER

WEDNESDAY POEM

GAZAL OF THE DEAD CHILD
BY FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA, TRANSLATED BY CHRISTOPHER MAURER

Every afternoon in Granada,
Every afternoon a child dies.
Every afternoon the water sits down
To converse with its friends.

No crumb of cloud remained on the
earth
When you were drowning in the
river.

The dead wear wings of moss.
The clouded wind and clean wind
Are two pheasants that fly around
the towers
And the day is a wounded boy.

A giant of water fell upon the hills
And the valley went tumbling, with
dogs and iris.
Your body, in the violet shadow of my
hands,
Dead on the bank, was an archangel
of cold.

No blade of lark remained in the air
When I found you in the wine caverns.

Lorca was born near Granada in June 1898. This poem comes from 'A Season in Granada' (Anvil Press, £7.95). Christopher Maurer's edition of his uncollected poetry and prose.

Mortgages

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION

The following interest rates for mortgages provided by Banking Direct, a Division of Bank of Scotland, will apply with effect from 1st July 1998 for both new and existing borrowers.

Banking Direct Mortgage Rate (Variable) 8.94% per annum.

Centrebank Mortgage Rate (Variable) 8.94% per annum.

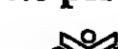
Stabilised Charging Rate 9.24% per annum.

Adaptable Mortgage Plan Charging Rate 9.10% per annum.

Banking Direct Mortgage Rate Plus (Variable) 9.44% per annum.

Centrebank Mortgage Rate Plus (Variable) 9.44% per annum.

Home Loan Rate 8.94% per annum.



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Benny Green

BENNY GREEN did much to unlock the mystery of musical creation for the layman. An enthusiastic jazz saxophonist as well as a witty and versatile writer and broadcaster, he was able to write lucidly about the problems facing composers and performers. He knew that the musician "is a tired hand pledged to making the fortune of the band-leader with whom he is expected to reach a relationship of grovelling servitude".

To many he was the quintessential Londoner but by birth Green was a Yorkshireman. He was born Bernard Green in Leeds in 1927, the son of a musician; at the age of 14 his father taught him to play the soprano saxophone. Years later he dedicated a book to "my father easily the best musician in the family". Having mastered the rudiments of the instrument he continued his studies with a private tutor and it

was to give him more prominence than he might have achieved as a working musician.

The Ronnie Scott nine-piece band was replaced by Scott's big band, still with Benny Green in the sax section. In February 1956 Stan Kenton brought his orchestra to Britain as part of an exchange negotiated by the American and British unions. For non-musical reasons two of Kenton's saxophonists returned home during the tour and for two nights Green was called upon to play baritone in the American band, an event which provided him with material for more amusing tales.

He played in a quintet with the trumpeter Dizzy Reece in 1957 but by now his various writing commitments were taking precedence. In the early Sixties he and I judged some of the Inter-University Jazz contests, assessing the musical achievements of burgeoning players such as Dave Gelly, Art Themen and Bill Ashton. In the mid-Sixties he chaired BBC radio's *Jazz Club*, taking over from Steve Race.

In 1962 he published *The Reckon Art: five studies in the growth of jazz*, lucid essays on style-setters such as Lester Young and Billie Holiday. Many more books were to come including two novels with a musical bias, *Blame it on My Youth* (1967) and *55 Minutes to London* (1969), and works of music criticism including *Drums in My Ears* (1973).

Green's literary talents were wide: in 1964 he wrote the book and lyrics for the opera-ballet *Lyssandra* (music by John Dankworth), which was performed at that year's Bath Festival with Cleo Laine in the starring role; he had his own late-night talk show on Rediffusion TV in 1966 and also produced three documentaries about London for them.

In 1968, again working with John Dankworth, he wrote the book and lyrics for *Boots And Strawberry Jam*, a musical biography based on the life of George Bernard Shaw and starring Cleo Laine and John Neville. The show was staged at Nottingham Playhouse and received good reviews, but failed to achieve a London booking.

In 1970 Green took over as literary critic for the *Spectator* and about the same time started writing film reviews for *Punch*. He wrote the libretto for the London revival of *Showboat*, which opened at the Adelphi Theatre in July 1971, again with Cleo Laine.

From his earliest days Benny Green was fascinated by the music of Broadway and Hollywood and the *Great American Song Book* was a topic to which he returned again and again. In collaboration with Alan Strachan he devised a Cole Porter review entitled *Cole* which opened at the Mermaid Theatre in July 1974



with a cast including Una Stubbs, Bill Kerr and Julia McKenzie.

The music of masters such as Porter, Kern, Berlin, Rodgers and Gershwin provided Green with ample opportunities to present fascinating programmes on his long-running Sunday afternoon show on BBC Radio 2 as well as introducing obscure or forgotten works by lesser-known composers. He also fostered friendships with craftsmen such as Johnny Mercer, Michael Feinstein and Alan J. Lerner. On the first anniversary of Lerner's death in June 1987, Green provided the introductions for the Drury Lane presentation of *An Evening with Alan Lerner* with artistes such as Elaine Paige, Tim Rice and Andre Previn. This was a charity event to raise funds for research into lung cancer at the Royal Marsden Hospital. He later compiled a book of Lerner's lyrics under the title *A Hymn To Him*.

Benny Green was a true professional in the writing field. He wrote prolifically on cricket and edited several anthologies from Wisden. He produced most of the liner-notes for Norman Granz's *Pabst* series of jazz albums and succeeded in reducing over 40 hours of interview material into the scripts for 13 one-hour shows devoted to the

work of Fred Astaire for television.

Last year he played the central role in a memorial service for Ronnie Scott held at St Martin-in-the-Fields. He brought humour to a potentially sad occasion, for despite all his achievements in the literary field, he remained at heart a musician.

Alan Morgan

I have to declare an interest – or, more accurately, a disinterest: I know nothing about music and musicians, writes Jack Rosenthal. On the other hand, I do know a character when I see one. And this one, driven by a blazing passion

for a world that had always left me only tepid, was a joy to know.

I don't think Benny Green did a day's work in his life. For over half a century all he did was play jazz-saxophone, write lyrics for musicals, books about musicians, books about cricket and broadcast hundreds of analyses of songwriters and their songs. In other words, all he ever did was enjoy himself doing the things he loved. Boy, how he loved them. And talking about them ...

Two years ago Benny did a stint on the QE2's "Jazz Cruise" to New York, playing the sax with his son Dominic, and lecturing on Gershwin with his wife, Toni. It so happened that Annie Ross was on the same trip doing a spot, and Maureen Lipman doing excerpts from her stage show. I went along in my official capacity as hanger-on and Maureen's

husband. I got out my violin and fiddle, and I was playing. It's my total inability to play one, single correct note. Sharps and flats pass me by without a backward glance. Minims, crotchets and whatever the others are called are wasting their time. Denis accompanied my recital manfully, if winced.

And Benny began to laugh. There

were always two pleasures in watching Benny laugh. One was the child-like sense of approval you felt. The other was that when he laughed – he laughed till he cried. That afternoon he cried a lot. Finally he wiped his eyes, asked to borrow Gerry's saxophone and – in a last-ditch defiance of the precious music I was mangled – he played. Beautifully.

Benny Green was largely self-educated. (In his School Certificate he got 0 per cent in Physics. Apparently writing nothing more than "B. Green – Physics" at the top of the page wasn't enough.) His reading became, like his cricket and music, not just something to enjoy – but to argue about. Criticise his beloved George Bernard Shaw and you were in danger of having a book (or cricket bat or saxophone) thrown at you. I think he'd insist with pride that he wasn't the most unopinionated of men. He didn't suffer fools at all, gladly or otherwise.

Compared to Benny, Scheherazade hardly opened her mouth. So many stories, all delivered in that distinctive voice that seemed to be wisely nodding his head, or wrinkling or raising one eyebrow. At the end of the tale, Toni might ask: "Tea or coffee?" To which the response was conceivably: "Talking of coffee, when Lorenz Hart was working on the lyric of 'Blue Moon', he had a call from Johnny Mercer, who, as everyone knows ..."

A few years ago, when Benny was in the early, ominous stages of his illness and undergoing chemotherapy, he slipped into an understandable but, for him, uncharacteristic depression. The most telling symptom of this was his loss of any desire to play his saxophone. For weeks it stayed in its case, and Benny seemed locked away with it. One Sunday afternoon, some friends called round to our house. One was the composer Denis King; another was Gerry Hjert, whose hobby was

collecting old musical instruments. And yes, he had with him one he'd picked up that day. And yes again, it was a saxophone. We called Benny and Toni to come and join us.

They arrived, and Benny declined the next invitation – to "try out" Jerry's sax. Extreme measures seemed called for while Denis sat innocuously thinking the piano keys. I got out my violin and two books of sheet music – songs of the Thirties and Forties. If I have one fairly noticeable failing in my violin-playing, it's my total inability to play one, single correct note. Sharps and flats pass me by without a backward glance. Minims, crotchets and whatever the others are called are wasting their time. Denis accompanied my recital manfully, if winced.

And Benny began to laugh. There were always two pleasures in watching Benny laugh. One was the child-like sense of approval you felt. The other was that when he laughed – he laughed till he cried. That afternoon he cried a lot. Finally he wiped his eyes, asked to borrow Gerry's saxophone and – in a last-ditch defiance of the precious music I was mangled – he played. Beautifully.

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But he was a man of great, giving warmth. With his love for music came a ferocious love of life. I don't think I know of a closer family than his: his adored and adoring Toni, his loving and beloved Justin, Dominic, Leo and Natasha. He fought courageously against his illness for 15 years. He may have finally lost his battle, but he won his war – his messianic passion to make as many people as possible enjoy what he did. Well, passion is catching. By the end, passion – and mission – accomplished.

Talking of Chinese horticulture, there was once this slip of a lad, 15 he was, no 14, when he first got up in his Youth Club and played his saxophone in public. Went by the name of Benny Green ...

Bernard (Benny) Green, saxophonist, writer and broadcaster: born Leeds 9 December 1927; married 1962 Antoinette Kaind (three sons, one daughter); died London 22 June 1998.

I don't think Benny Green did a day's work in his life. All he ever did was enjoy himself doing the things he loved

was then that he switched to the tenor sax.

He studied for a while at the Royal College of Music, but the hankering to become a full-time musician was strong and in the summer of 1952 he joined the pianist Ralph Starren's short-lived big band. Later that same year a dispute within the ranks of Jack Parnell's Orchestra caused half a dozen key players to leave, including Ronnie Scott, Jimmy Deuchar and Phil Seaman. Scott decided to form a nine-piece band of his own and Green joined his group of young hopefuls on saxophone sax.

In later years he wrote amusingly of Scott's strategy "to get booked into dance halls, and then play uncompromising jazz when we got here". The music was exciting, the return minimal and Green recalled perhaps not with perfect truth trying to work out how many times one went to £14 as 5d at the end of the gig".

By now he had another string to his bow and was writing a weekly column for the *New Musical Express*, the beginning of a new career which

Grand Ayatollah Sheikh Mirza Ali al-Gharawi

AYATOLLAH ALI al-Gharawi was a prominent *mujtahid* (source of emulation) for Imanī-Twelve Shia Muslims and a great jurist and scholar.

He was born in 1930 in Tabriz in Iran. His father Haj Abdulla Haj Isfahan, who was a prosperous merchant and who for a time had a business in Kuba (in present-day Azerbaijan), died when Ali was only two years old so he was brought up by his mother Sayyida Fezza, the daughter of Sayyid Mohamed Iskui. It was because Ali was a direct descendant of the Prophet Mohamed on his mother's side that he bore the title of Mirza, as was the custom.

It seems that it was due especially to his mother and her influence that at the early age of six Ali embarked upon a traditional religious education with a view to his eventually becoming an *alim* (religious scholar). He received all his elementary education in Tabriz and then travelled to the holy city of Qom

to complete his intermediate studies at the religious academy, the Hawza-ye Elmeh, and at the age of 16 he commenced advanced studies. Among his teachers figured the illustrious *mujtahid* the late Ayatollah Sayyid Husayn Burujerdi and Ayatollah Mohamed Kukhiamari.

Mirza Ali spent 5 years at Qom and then moved to al-Najaf al-Asfar in Iraq to complete his advanced studies at the Hawza there – the oldest university in Shia Islam. Now began his intimate association with Najaf which would continue until his death. He became known as al-Gharawi, which is derived from al-Ghar, the ancient name of Najaf, and it was by this surname (*nisba*) rather than by his original name of Tabrizi that he came to be identified.

His teachers at Najaf included great scholars and jurists such as the late Ayatollahs Shalih Husayn al-Hilli and Mirza Mohamed Baqir al-Zanjani but the one to whom he undoubtedly owed the most and the one whom he looked upon as his

mentor was the late Ayatollah Sayyid Abul-Qasim al-Khoi, one of the most prominent *mujtahids* of the 20th century.

Still not 30, al-Gharawi was acknowledged as a *mujtahid* (competent to make independent juridical decisions). Al-Khoi in a written document dated July 1958 testifies to the academic excellence of his pupil and looks forward to the day when he would become a *mujtahid*.

Khoi's wish was eventually fulfilled when Mirza Ali, following the demise of the *mujtahid* Ayatollah Abd al-Aziz al-Sabzevari in August 1953, published his own juridical decisions "al-Fatawa al-Mustanbata" which was the first step for any prospective *mujtahid*.

As a *mujtahid*, Ayatollah Gharawi had followers in Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. At the same time he was a teacher at the Hawza right up to his death and also one of the imams who led congregational prayers in the sacred enclosure known as the Rawda which contains

the tomb of the first Shia Imam Amir al-Mu'min Ali ibn Abi Talib. He is the author of numerous works on *fiqh* (Islamic jurisprudence) most of which remain, however, in manuscript form. His published works include a dozen volumes relating to Khoi's lectures on Yazdi's renowned treatise *al-Uruo al-Wuthqa* replete with his own annotations.

It was Gharawi's wont every Thursday to make the 50-mile journey north to Karbala to pray in the Rawda there and visit the tomb of Imam al-Husayn, the third Imam and grandson of the Prophet Mohamed. Last Thursday was to be his last visit. Returning home to Najaf on the motorway he was shot dead in a hail of bullets along with his son-in-law Shaykh Mohamed Taqi Faqih (a Lebanese national), the driver and a friend.

The Iraqi government has of course denied any implication in the murder and accuses hostile foreign agents of the deed. Shia leaders throughout the world however regard the assassination of Gharawi to be simply the latest in a series of crimes planned and perpetrated by the Iraqi Mukhabarat (Intelligence Services). Two months ago another great *alim*, Ayatollah Murtada al-Burujandi, was shot dead in Najaf. Both men were outstanding scholars and *mujtahids* and were never involved in political activity but nevertheless were spiritual leaders of Shia Iraqis who are looked upon by the regime with considerable apprehension.

Despite the general oppression wrought upon the Shia in Iraq during the past 30 years many Shia *ulema* still live in the holy city of Najaf. Grand Ayatollah Ali Seestani, who of all the *mujtahids* has the greatest number of followers world-wide, has been under virtual house arrest for three years. Another *mujtahid* is Ayatollah Sayyid Mohamed Said al-Hakim, grandson on his mother's side, of the late *mujtahid* Muhsin al-Hakim who was the principal *mujtahid* of all the Shia before al-Khoi.

Sheikh Mohamed Ishaq al-Fayyad, a Pakistani who has lived for the past 50 years in Najaf, is expected by many to seek recognition soon as a *mujtahid*.

A. B. D. R. Eagle
Mirza Ali al-Tubrizi, religious scholar and jurist; born Tabriz, Persia 1930; married Batin Kermanshahi (three sons, five daughters); died Karbala, Iraq 18 June 1998.

Gerhard Gundermann

ERHARD GUNDERMANN would have been there in spirit, on Berlin's famous Alexanderplatz last Saturday with the 20,000 Germans from the trade unions, the bourses and student bodies who demonstrated against right-wing extremism and unemployment and called for a change of government.

He would have also enjoyed the gathering of 30,000 in Zwickau, in former East Germany, who were celebrating their Trabant cars. Once the symbol of Communist East Germany's failure, they have become a cult vehicle and remarkably there're still 406,000 of these small, "cardboard" cars with their two-stroke engines licensed. Gundermann would perhaps have sung "Tell the beggar front of my house that my heart is just got the day off today. Don't

regard himself as a worker rather than an entertainer

give me the newspaper, my heart has got the day off today... From tomorrow it will pump my blood through all the world again. From tomorrow it will send an SOS to God again."

Gundermann's friends and admirers would say his heart never did take the day off. He became popular in the early 1990s for his concern,

expressed in his music, about the rising unemployment and social dislocation in the former (East) German Democratic Republic (GDR) since reunification in 1990. He also had a certain pride in the achievements of the East German people. This was understandable considering his background.

Gerhard Gundermann was born in Weimar, then in the GDR, in 1935. Weimar is a town which forces you to think. It is steeped in Germany's cultural history, the town of Goethe and Schiller, the town where the Weimar Republic was proclaimed in 1919. When Gundermann was growing up it harboured a secret: Weimar was also the town of the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, who died there in 1900. The Communist rulers of Gundermann's

childhood did not want that fact mentioned. Nietzsche's house did not appear in the tourist literature. Nearby was the museum of the notorious Nazi concentration camp of Buchenwald. The camp also served the Soviet occupiers after the Second World War, which was another fact not mentioned in Gundermann's youth.

Gundermann had shown an early interest in music, having joined a glee club in Hoyerswerda in 1972. Although he started to compose his own music and texts in 1973, he remained a member of groups until 1980, when he started to give solo performances. In 1975 Gundermann, aged 30, joined the ruling Socialist Unity Party (SED). This was a time of some optimism. Erich Honecker had replaced Walter Ulbricht as East German leader, in 1971, and he introduced longer hol-

iday and better social welfare. Relations with West Germany were improved and Honecker signed the Helsinki Final Act, which promised human rights for all. Yet, despite promising a liberal regime in the arts, Honecker moved against dissident intellectuals – singers, painters and writers.

Like so many others, Gundermann could not square the ideals of Marx with the realities of the GDR. He was expelled from the SED in 1983. Yet he was not prevented from performing. His first LP, *Männer, Frauen und Maschinen* ("Men, Women and Machines"), came on the market in 1984. This was at a time when Honecker was warning that the GDR would not follow Gorbachev's road.

After 1989 Gundermann worked

with different pop groups including Silly and G.G. & Sellschaft. In 1990 he was rehabilitated by the post-Honecker SED, which was in the process of transforming itself to become the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS). Like the PDS Gundermann sought to articulate the dissatisfaction of a section of the East German population and to proclaim the ideals of the libertarian Left.

He still regarded himself as a worker rather than a professional entertainer, and had recently begun training to become a cabinetmaker.

David Childs

Gerhard Gundermann, folk singer: born Weimar, East Germany 21 May 1935; married (three children); died Spreetal, Germany 21 June 1998.



Rodney Gee

RODNEY GEE was a veteran of two world wars.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 9th Battalion Durham Light Infantry in March 1917 and won the Military Cross on the vineyards of the famous Louis Roederer champagne house near Reims. His citation was published in the *London Gazette* on 7 November 1918:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During two very successful attacks by the battalion this officer went forward under heavy fire on several occasions to reconnoitre and assess the situation. His initiative and resource enabled him to render services of great value to the battalion.

Gee's mentor and inspiration was the famous Colonel Roland Bradford VC, Colonel of the 9th Battalion DLI. As Gee went to join his regiment for the 3rd Battle of Ypres, he met several young DLI officers who had been sacked by the very colonel he was going to serve under. However, Gee was clearly regarded as a great hit by Bradford, who had the reputation of being an absolute tartar.

It is said that General Montgomery to some extent modelled himself on Bradford, who would spend a great proportion of the day with his men (leaving Gee as officer in charge). Bradford was severely reprimanded for this from HQ yet continued to flout orders in protocol and in strategy and actions. Only as a result of lengthy persuasion from Gee did Bradford accept further promotions and leave the battalion. Rodney Gee gained a mention in despatches in the *London Gazette* of 7 July 1919.

After the war, Gee went up to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and gained a First in Classics in Part I of the Tripos and read English in Part II. In 1922, he joined the staff at Clifton College, where he remained until 1968. His mentor at Clifton was R.P. Keigwin, not only the winner of four Blues and an international hockey cap but a translator of Hans Christian Andersen. Sir Michael Redgrave, who was in Dakyns' House under Keigwin, gave many public readings of his translations. During this period Gee was House Tutor not only to Redgrave but to Trevor Howard as well. Indeed, when Gee was 90 he figured in Roger Michell's production of *Michael Redgrave: my father*, which Corin Redgrave presented.

At Clifton, Gee was an inspirational teacher and housemaster. He was a past master of the red herring and during a Chaucer period regaled his class with his trick of injecting a prune with gin from a hypodermic needle. He followed Keigwin as Housemaster of Dakyns' and incurred the wrath of the headmaster,



Greet the unseen with a cheer: Gee on his 100th birthday

A past master of the red herring, during a Chaucer period he regaled his class with his trick of injecting a prune with gin from a hypodermic needle

Bertrand Hallward, when he went away to war again at the age of 42 in early 1940.

On 10 April 1940, he was captured at the little village of Wanquetin near Arras. He hid in a barn for a while listening to the German boots. Eventually he was captured, but not before he had hidden his revolver and "giveaway" articles. He was put up against a wall to be shot and Gee was never sure why he and three colleagues were spared.

Qualities learned from Roland Bradford evidently made him a crucial fig-

ure in his prison at Spangenberg Castle near Kassel. Tensions between senior and junior ranks were defused by Gee. In prison he became an excellent cook and stitched wonderful samplers for his young children, one to his younger daughter, whom he did not see until 1945, he embroidered a Browning quotation: "Greet the unseen with a cheer". He was on the Escape Committee and particularly adept at curbing and restraining the more foolhardy and wayward. Owing to his ability to remain nonchalant and poker-faced during room searches, he was in charge of guarding the radio for much of the time. Towards the end of the war, he was liberated by the Americans and was co-opted into fighting with them against pockets of desperate German resistance. For this brief action, he received a second mention in despatches.

On his return to Clifton, recently abandoned by General Omar Bradley's First Army, Gee had the daunting task of starting up a new boarding house, Watson's, which had been closed during the school's evacuation to Bude in Cornwall. Chewing gum sticking to the bottom of benches and chairs was the immediate American legacy. Also, a German princess and a nanny with Nazi

leanings had been hired to look after his youngest child.

These were hardly encouraging portents on the domestic front. However, he captured the loyalty and esteem of his boys and achieved a fine balance between scholarship and sport. He made a hundred Newbolt's famous *Clos* at the age of 56 and was still playing until he was 70. With flannels yellowing, an impeccable choker around his neck, he was still dispatching off-drives over cover-point's head to the boundary. One evening at Cheddar, when Gee was fielding on the boundary, he suddenly fell over and vanished from sight. He reappeared and his clipped army voice drawled out: "Sorry! Dead sheep heah!"

In 1993 he attended Westminster Abbey for the 75th anniversary of the Armistice, which was attended by the Queen Mother, who graciously sent him a telegram on his 100th birthday.

Tom Gover

Charles Hinton Rodney Gee, soldier, born Castleford, Sunderland 18 August 1897; MC 1918; married 1938 Nancy Osborne (died 1993; three daughters); died Clifton, Bristol 7 April 1993.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

POST: Leonard Victor Post, of Upper Norwood and Lewes, died 21 June, aged 74, at home, peacefully. Much loved by his family and friends. The funeral will take place on Tuesday 23 June at 12 noon at St Michael's Cemetery, Highgate Road, Lewes. Donations may be made to the League of Friends, Victoria Hospital, Nevill Road, Lewes, East Sussex.

NEWS: Sir Foley Newson KCMG CVO, died on 21 June 1998, in his 89th year. Family funeral on Tuesday 30 June at 1.30pm in the Chapel of St Catherine's College, Cambridge. Please contribute £10 to the place of Memorial Service to be announced.

OBITUARY: Lady (Georgie) died peacefully in her sleep on Sunday 21 June, aged 83. Widow of Sir Geoffrey, beloved mother and grandmother. Thanksgiving service and interment of Peggy and Geoffrey's ashes at St George's Chapel, Windsor, Berkshire, on Friday 10 July at 3pm. For further information, please phone 01672 540223.

IN MEMORIAM

HOWARD: David, Dear Son, you are in our thoughts every moment, but today, 24 June, with our greatest love, we remember your birthday. Mum and Dad.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial Services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £4.50 a line (VAT extra).

Other Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Please include a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

The e-mail address for OBITUARIES is obituaries@independent.co.uk

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Dr D. A. Morrison and Ms S. C. Rutherford The engagement is announced between Danny, youngest son of Mrs E. Morrison, of London SE24, and the late Mr D. Morrison, and Sarah, only daughter of Dr and Mrs A.G. Rutherford, of Murrayfield, Edinburgh.

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Anthony Barrowclough QC, former Ombudsman, 74; Mr Jeff Beck, blues and rock guitarist, 54; Viscount Bledisloe QC, 64; Lord Braiine of Wheatley, former MP, 24; Sir Armando Calderon Sol, president of El Salvador, 50; M. Claude Chabrol, film director, 68; Mr Robin Cullen, former Director-General, Forestry Commission, 64; Lord Davies of Coity, trade union leader, 63; Mrs Anita Densi, novelist, 61; Mr Roger Dobson, Director-general, the Institute of Civil Engineers, 62; Mr Jack Dunnell, former player, Football League, 76; Professor Kenneth Durrants, former Vice-Chancellor and Rector, Huddersfield University, 65; Mr Mick Fleetwood, rock drummer, 56; Sir Ian Gainsford, Dean, King's College Medical and Dental School, 68; Professor Sir Fred Hoyle, astronomer and science fiction writer, 83; Miss Betty Jackson, fashion designer, 49; Sir Edward Jackson, for-

mer diplomat, 73; Mr John McCormick, Controller, BBC Scotland, 54; Mrs Emma McKendrick, Headmistress, Royal School, Bath, 35; Mr Owen Paterson MP, 42; Professor John Postgate, microbiologist, 76; Miss Mary Wesley, writer, 85; Sir John Whitford, former High Court judge, 85.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: St John of the Cross, mystic, 1542; Farinelli (Carlo Broschi), castrato singer, 1705; Louis-Lazare Hoche, French Revolutionary soldier, 1768; Eleuthère Irénée du Pont de Nemours, gunpowder manufacturer, 1771; Sir John Ross, Arctic explorer, 1777; Henry Ward Beecher, clergyman, 1813; William Henry (W.H.) Smith, bookseller and politician, 1825; Ambrose Gwinnett Bierce, writer and satirist, 1842; Horatio Herbert Kitchener, soldier, 1850; Harry Plunkett Greene, harpist, 1865; Oswald Veblen, mathematician, 1880; Jack Dempsey, heavyweight boxer, 1895; King Alexander Johnston, broadcaster and cricket commentator, 1912. Deaths: Ferdinand I (the Great), King of Castile and Leon, 1065; Lucrezia Borgia, Duchess of Ferrara, 1519; John Hampden, Parliamentary general, from wounds, 1643; William Smale, printer, author and naturalist, 1786; Adam Lindsay Gordon, poet, committed suicide 1870; Marie-François Sadi Carnot, engineer and

statesman, 1894; Stephen Grover Cleveland, 22nd and 24th US President, 1908; Walter Rathenau, statesman, assassinated 1922; Stuart Davis, abstract artist, 1964; Valentine Dyall, actor, 1995; Rex Ernest Warner, writer, 1998. On this day: Robert the Bruce and his army defeated the forces of Edward II at Bannockburn, 1314; the English fleet defeated the French at the Battle of Sluys, 1340; John Cabot reached the shores of North America, 1497; the Mother Grand Lodge of the Order of Freemasonry was inaugurated in London, 1717; Napoleon's armies invaded Russia, 1812; the French defeated the Austrians at the Battle of Solferino, 1859; the training of nurses began at St Thomas's Hospital, London, 1860; the Russian fleet in the Black Sea mutinied at Sebastopol, 1917; the blockade of Berlin by the Soviet Union began, 1948; in the United States, a 27-year-old soap opera, *The Romance of Helen Twelvetrees*, ended after 7,222 episodes, 1960; the Mersey Tunnel was opened, 1971. Today is the Feast Day of St Bartholomew of Ferne, St John the Baptist, St Ralph or Raoul of Bourges and St Simplicius of Autun.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Christopher Baker, "Masters of Light (iii): The Utrecht School and Rembrandt", 1pm. Victoria and Albert

Museum: Caroline Blackman, "18th-century Buttons", 2pm.

Tate Gallery: Jonathan Blackwood, "Giacometti and the Human Figure", 1pm.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Graham Fry, to be British High Commissioner to Malaysia.

Mr Stephen John Gullick, to be a circuit judge, on the North Eastern Circuit.

Mrs Patricia Pearl and Mr Barrie Robert James Cole, to be district judges on the South Eastern Circuit.

Mr Geoffrey James Edwards and Mrs Debora Jane O'Regan, to be district judges on the Midland and Oxford Circuit.

Mr Paul Nigel Singleton, to be a district judge on the Western Circuit.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev Martin Evans, Curate, Morpeth (Newcastle) to be Chaplain, HM Royal Navy.

The Rev Robert Jones, Vicar, Wiverton and Garton-on-the-Wolds with Kirkburn (York) to be also acting Rural Dean of Harrogate (Newcastle).

The Rev David Kirton, Vicar, Mitcham St Barbara (Southwark) to be Priest-in-Charge, South Ashton Church (Camberley, Surrey).

The Rev Stephen St John, Curate, St John the Evangelist, Northgate, North Greenwich, Greenwich (Southwark) to be also acting Rural Dean of Greenwich (same diocese).

Ben Emmerson and Peter Weatherby (Grayson) for the plaintiff; Philip Sales and Michael Fordham (Treasury Solicitor) for the government.

Lord Woolf MR said that the

Divisional Court had had to

decide whether, when a person

was sentenced to more than

one period of imprisonment to

be served concurrently, the

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am, 1st Battalion. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

new regimental headquarters at Edinburgh Castle.

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You ask the questions

(Such as: you are known to have had a successful career as a gangster. So, Frank Fraser, did your victims deserve to die?)

AFTER 42 years in top security prisons and a couple of stretches in Broadmoor, the retired gangster "Mad Frankie" Fraser, 75, reinvented himself as an author and performer in 1994. Now the darling of the London literary world, he recently completed his second book of memoirs, *Mad Frank and Friends*. He describes himself as "very easy-going usually" and lives in south London with his girlfriend Marilyn Wisbey, 43, the daughter of the great train robber Tommy Wisbey.

In your opinion, did your victims deserve to die? If so, why?

Anne Hunt, Malmesbury
My victims were all criminals. None of them had any class. I never touched anyone from the real world.

Do you think it is right that you should a) make money from writing about your criminal past and b) be treated as a celebrity because of it?

Inn Hickton, Stoke-on-Trent
I have no regrets about taking money or being a celebrity. That is what the public wants. And what's more I give the public what they want. What gangster do you know can appear twice daily in a West End theatre and get standing ovations? No one's ever done it before. What gangster, other than George Raft, has ever appeared in a film? I did and I got great notices for *Hard Men*. For a few weeks it was number one in the video best-seller charts.

When you were a little boy, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Frances Quinn, Tunbridge Wells, Kent
As a boy I wanted to be a successful gangster, not an unsuccessful one.

My mum remembers you from just after the war, living in and around the Camberwell area, and she says, even then, you were known to be "bit handy". Have you always been involved in the life of crime, did you consider an alternative to it, or did you actually enjoy it?

Mark Eccles, Cumberwell
I was always handy. Handy at everything. That's what got me into trouble all my life.

What kind of person was your mum?

Janet Hunter, Halifax
My mum was wonderful, a great lady. The only thing was, she was completely "straight". Had nothing to do with crime whatsoever.

Did you do National Service? If not, why not?

Brian Perkins, Somerset
Yes I did it. Rather briefly. Never even wore the uniform.

What was the best thing about prison?

Anthony Horsfield, West Midlands
The best thing or things that ever happened to me in prison was being released, for a start, and meeting Ivor Novello, the great songwriter. He was once in the cell next to me at Wormwood Scrubs. Great guy. Good to talk to. He should never have been there.

"The Independent" stated that you have been certified insane three times. Am I right to infer from this that you have at least twice become sane again, and, if so, what were you like then?

Andy Devor, Lincolnshire
I have been certified insane three times. Insanity is a game that any number can play. It's just a case of not losing your nerve. Broadmoor is your reward.

Who did you prefer, Reggie or Ronnie Kray - and why?

Mark Cordiner, Manchester
Reggie and Ronnie were completely different and at the same time twins. I knew them since I was a teenager. I visit Reggie every so often at his prison with Marilyn - we go down and talk. It's a disgrace that he's still inside. He's more than paid his debt to society. He can sometimes go off the handle, but so would you if you spent over 30 years inside. You can molest a woman or child and get off these days with a suspended sentence.

Reggie killed a guy and I would have done the same. Ronnie was different. He had dark moods but it was dreadful that he died inside. He didn't deserve that. In the end he was harmless. He was just a shell. Not the big gangster that I once knew.

What's the worst thing you've ever done? Do you ever have nightmares about it?

Caroline Hurdley, Truro, Cornwall
Opening a safe and finding nothing was in it. Then finding out that millions were in the boss's secretary's handbag and you'd bumped into her in the street and she'd done the job before you.

Which is easier, being an author or being a gangster?

Fiona Rice, Southampton
Author or gangster - I'm a performer in both spheres.

What would you like to do to your critics?

Nicola Harvey, Clapham, London
I have the edge over other authors or actors because critics have been very kind to me about what I write or do on stage or television. Critics don't disagree with me. I can't think why.

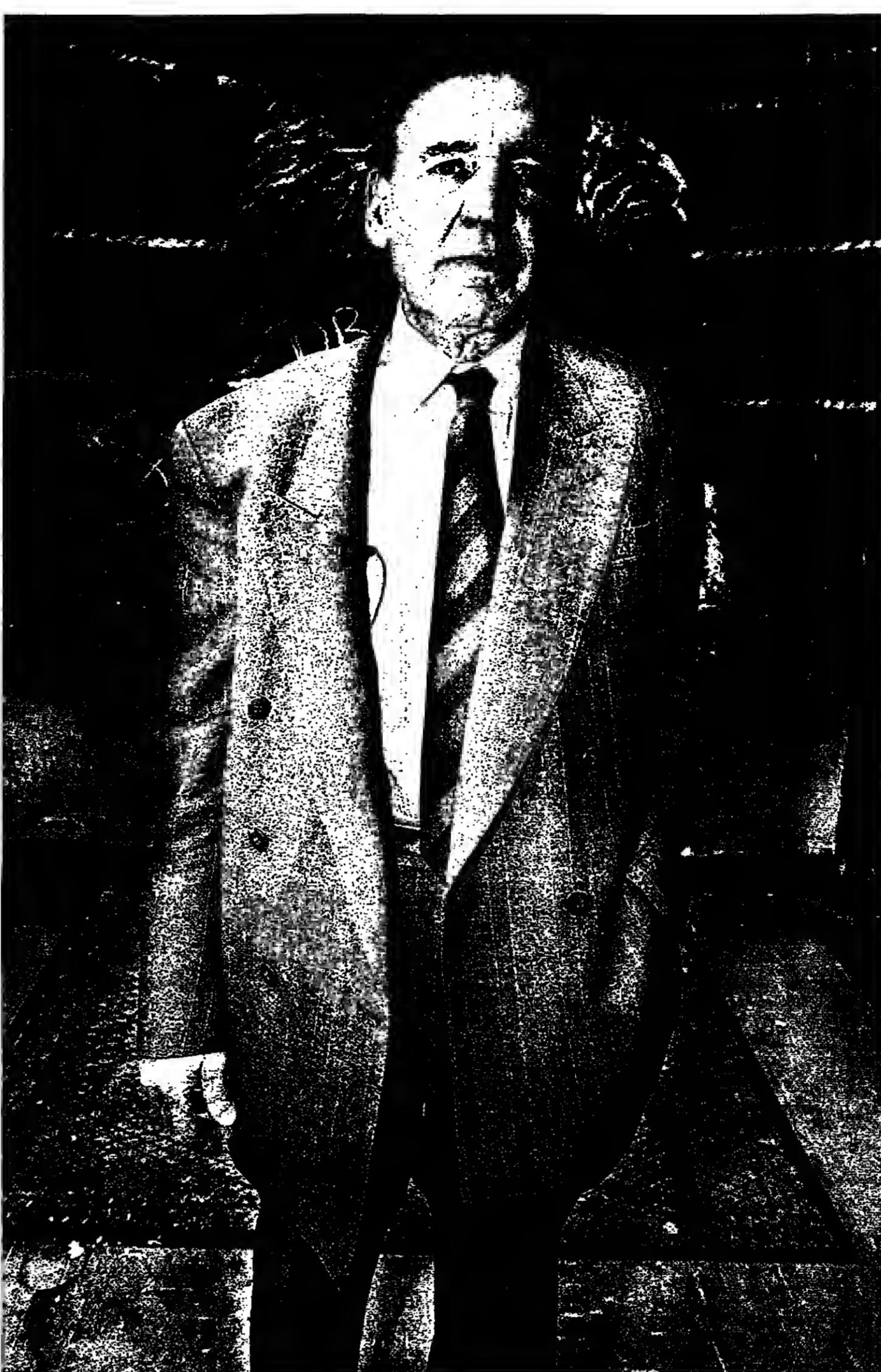
Do you dye your hair?

Roger Manners, Birmingham
Yes. It's all my own. I couldn't disguise myself to save my life. I'm as famous as Cilla Black.

I've heard that your wife is trying to make it as a singer. How is her career progressing and has she had any recording offers?

Simon Ellison, Belford Green, London
Marilyn and I have been together a long time. She's my rock. She's a good singer. She appeared in my show in the West End. She's got style and she gets good notices. *The Guardian's* critic, reviewing one of my shows, was a bit frightened to say what he thought of me so he said, "It was refreshing to hear the charming voice of Marilyn Wisbey."

Imagine a clear jar containing one magic bean. This bean splits into two identical beans after one sec-



ond. These two beans then split in turn producing four beans. These then split to produce eight beans, etc... The jar takes exactly 60 seconds to fill up with the splitting beans. Can you tell me how full the jar is after 59 seconds?

J. Swainston, London
It seems to me that you've been watching the opening of the film of *The Krays*, the hit with Billie Whitelaw talking about twins and saying all these bits and pieces about seeds and eggs and all that - and when I saw it I didn't understand a word of what it was about. And neither did Charlie Kray, who was an adviser on the picture.

Do you support the "Independent on Sunday" campaign to decriminalise cannabis?

Victoria Benstead, London
Of course I agree with decriminalising cannabis, although I've never smoked it myself or tried it as a cookie, as was once suggested.

Your former career must have been rather messy at times. Do you have any handy hints on how to get blood stains out of woollen clothes, such as jumpers?

Graham Paul, Edinburgh
Ask Scotland Yard.

If you returned to your home to find it had been burgled and "trashed", would you consider it the result of criminals just trying to earn a living or would you be outraged that this action was perpetrated against you and other normal members of society by the criminal classes?

David Deal, Oxford
I'd kill 'em

Do you think yardies and triads have taken over the criminal underworld? What do you think of their criminal fraternities?

Dennis Wright, Stockwell, London
Yardies? It's a media thing. I can't say more.

Would you disapprove if a child of yours started getting in trouble with the police?

Mark Thompson, Bury St Edmunds
My kids? Who am I to be critical?

Would you say that, on the whole, crime pays?

Jemima Roberts, West London
Really only in the City of London. I can't see anybody making a few bob elsewhere.

Next week:
Jeffrey Archer



Please send any questions you would like to put to the author, peer of the realm, former Tory party chairman and potential mayoral candidate, to Your Questions, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; or fax on 0171-293 2182; or e-mail to yourquestions@independent.co.uk by lunchtime on Friday 26 June.

Ansafones, mobiles, pagers, email - so many channels for clandestine communication, and so many traps. By Anita Chaudhuri

Beware the mechanics of modern adultery

OH TO have been born a Victorian gentewoman. When it came to expressing the innermost secrets of the heart, all they had to worry about was finding a suitably delicate nib and perhaps a choice bottle of rose-scented ink. Now it seems that the old-fashioned love letter is dead and in its stead we must do battle with faxes, pagers, emails and call-waiting, in order to conduct our affairs, be they innocent or clandestine.

In theory, technology should have made it easier for us to communicate. On the contrary, it looks as if it has real power to betray cheating hearts.

Take the beleaguered entertainer Shane Richie. He had been cheating on his wife, Coleen Nolan, for some time when she discovered his affair. How did she find out? Not by hiring a private detective, not by finding a billet-doux in his pocket, but - oh the humiliation! - by hearing a recording of a more-than-friendly phone con-

versation between himself and his 23-year-old *Grease* co-star Louise Tyler, which had been recorded by accident on the family answering machine.

It is possible for many top-of-the-range answering machines to record calls - the problem is that most of us never bother to read the instruction booklet beyond the "how to pick up your messages" stage, and therein lies the problem.

Mobile phones can be equally treacherous. Apart from the incriminating evidence of itemised phone bills, some models can be set up to divert calls to the phone at home. Jim's wife, Rose, found out about his affair this way.

"I came back and there was this message on the machine from a woman whose voice I didn't recognise. She was asking for the address of the restaurant where she and Jim were supposedly going to meet that night. Well, I couldn't believe it. As far as I knew, he

was going out to a corporate awards bash that night." Jim's mistress had thought she was leaving a message on his mobile - but he had forgotten to take his calls off divert.

It's not just mobile phones which cause havoc. With the advent of 1471, British Telecom has sparked off countless marital confrontations.

"I had a strong feeling that Ian was seeing someone," says Marie. "Often I'd answer the phone and the caller would hang up. When I dialled 1471, the message always said 'number withheld'. Now why on earth would anyone bother withholding their number?"

This encouraged her to snoop around in her partner's briefcase, and sure enough there was a whole catalogue of evidence on his credit-card bill: florists, restaurants she'd never been to, all the usual things.

Pagers can be problematic, too. "I was round at my girlfriend Jane's one night watch-



It was the answering machine that told Linda that Shane had been cheating

ing TV while she was at the gym," recalls Brian. "I was bored so I started fiddling around with her paper which she'd left on the table. Then I came across all these messages from someone called Tim. I'd never heard of him. When she got back I confronted her and she admitted to having an affair."

The most ubiquitous accessory to adultery, though, has got to be electronic mail. Email can be a particularly risky method of communication because it's not as private as we think and it can go wrong. Most of us who work in offices have fallen victim to the horror of sending inter-office email to the wrong person - usually the person the message is about.

Clearly email has great dramatic potential - Meg Ryan's next movie, *You've Got Mail*, is all about an email affair between two colleagues. Somehow more intimate than a phone call yet still as immedi-

ate, emails can fuel the flames of a humdrum affair - and provide incriminating evidence for a wronged spouse.

For some inexplicable reason, most people tend not to delete email. "I was working at home and wanted to send a fax," says Anna. "But it wasn't working, so I decided to send an email from my husband's laptop. Imagine my surprise when I opened the email programme and there were all these messages from this one woman. I couldn't resist having a look, but I really wish I hadn't, they were very steamy. I was devastated. It was such a horrible way to find out."

The columnist Nicola Davis, who discovered details of her husband's affair from an itemised phone bill, believes that most of us already know the truth before we find the evidence of infidelity.

"Most of us do smell a rat under the floorboards long before we see the computer

print-out," she observes. "I knew my husband was having an affair. But when I saw the itemised bill, it kind of shocked me because it created a vivid picture of what had been going on. He'd been phoning this woman on Sunday nights when he was supposed to be locked in his study handling the household bills. So the calls were made in funny, five-minute bites, presumably snatched between the trips I was making up and down the stairs with the washing."

Davis believes that adulterous partners like Shane Richie give themselves away because hi-tech gizmos don't always behave the way we expect them to. "Technology betrays us because it often doesn't work," she observes.

Anyone foolish enough to be contemplating an adulterous affair might bear this in mind - you'd be well advised to read the instruction manual through to the bitter end.

The last of the gentleman publishers

Beckett, Burroughs, Breton: John Calder printed authors no one else dared touch. Now he's taking on the Government. By Barét Magarian

For the past half-century John Calder's name has been synonymous with literary excellence. He began in 1949, publishing foreign and political titles, and acquiring a reputation for taking books that others wouldn't go near.

Things took off in 1963 when he published Henry Miller's sexually explicit *Tropic of Cancer*. It sold 40,000 and Calder was able to print all the manuscripts that had until then been gathering dust. During the Sixties he joined forces with Marion Boyars, and together they published the most interesting fiction and drama around: Borges, Artaud, Burroughs, Celine, Pasolini, Miller, Ionesco, Beckett, Breton, Pirandello. Calder was the first to introduce *British to the practitioners of the nouveau roman*, principally Claude Simon, Alain Robbe-Grillet and Nathalie Sarraute. Over the years he has had 18 Nobel prize winners on his list, more than any other publisher.

Next year will mark his 50th year in publishing. But times are hard. He has managed to retain a distinguished set of writers, most notably Samuel Beckett, Celine, and Howard Barker, but he lost many when he was unable to keep up on royalty payments. This was as a direct result of the loss of his Arts Council grant in 1983. Marguerite Duras, Henry Miller, and William Burroughs were all plucked up by other publishers.

As we talk in his London office his determined gaze and clipped accent create an air of stoicism.

"The then literature committee of the Arts Council, under the Conservatives, was taken over by people who didn't know anything about serious literature. They said the books we published were no longer of any interest, even though in 1985 Claude Simon won the Nobel Prize. Howard Barker the Italia Prize for best radio play and Barbara Wright the Scott

Moncrieff prize for best translation." Calder Publications now finds itself in a unique position as the last of the independent publishers. This means that it isn't owned by anyone else, and does not have to answer to anyone else. "We are also one of the few publishers that still carries the flag for the English language, which is in great danger of disappearing under the American vernacular, because British books are increasingly being edited by American editors."

John Calder's activities are myriad. He is not only a publisher, but an editor, translator, journalist and critic (a book on Beckett's philosophy is due later this year). In addition, he has just kick-started a national campaign to draw attention to the arts in this country.

"Societies without the arts lack the critical edge that enables people to see through bad administrators and governments, and as a result they are always under demagogues and dictators."

"We need to make the Government realise the importance of the arts, which is why I'm involved in a National Rally for the Arts, which will take place on 1 and 2 May 1999 in Hyde Park."

"We're hoping to get as many as a million people to go, when there will be free entertainment by theatre companies, bands, orchestras, artists of every kind."

"We want to get the Government positively on the side of the arts, and get more funding for them. No country in Europe has the arts at such a low level as they are in this country. And I think Tony Blair will have a sort of miraculous conversion when he realises he'll be losing votes if he doesn't start to do something."

The conversation shifts from a moral agenda to an anecdotal one. I ask him about Beckett, whom he met in the 1950s, gaining the rights to his fiction when Faber refused to take it, considering it too difficult.

What do you think of literary fiction today? "I'm sure there are very good things being written, even getting published, but the problem is that they aren't getting reviewed."

Calder thinks that we may see

more independent publishers starting up to counter this. One hopes that someone with his determination and willingness to take risks will come along.

This determination extends to acting as his own representative with the booksellers. This, combined with going to conferences, working in his Paris and London offices, and writing, adds up to a marathon 100-hour working week for him.

But why can't he get someone else to sell the books?

"None of the reps was willing to find out what the books were about. I found I achieved more in a day

than they did in three months."

What about the future of the list? "I've no more idea of the future of the list than I have about my own future. I would like to think that someone would come along and carry it on, someone willing to put in the dedication, to work that 100 hours for extremely little return."

John Calder turned 71 this year. In France he has been made a chevalier twice. In Britain he has received no public honours. He is neither surprised nor dismayed by this. But for those who care about serious literature his career embodies the defiant intelligence and excellence that is its hallmark.

The Lieder of the pack

CLASSICAL
SIMON KEENLYSIDE
WIGMORE HALL
LONDON

SIMON KEENLYSIDE must be the only singer to let his pianist, Malcolm Martineau, walk on stage first. But then he's not your preening star - he's an uncommonly subtle and, at the same time, a very sincere musician, for whom the song really is the thing. When his first solo CD came out a few years ago, the highly experienced critic of *The Gramophone* called him the finest British interpreter of Schubert, and in 1995 The Critics' Circle voted him Singer of the Year.

It has taken the public a little while to catch up with him, despite Keenlyside's long list of distinguished roles in the world's leading opera houses. Saturday night's recital was not quite sold out, but the reception was tumultuous.

Keenlyside's programme showed him in almost as many lights as possible, though most of the songs were composed at the end of the 19th century. His gorgeously warm baritone is ideally suited to German Lieder and at the end of the evening, I would have chosen to take home with me his singing of Strauss's "Traum durch die Dämmerung" - a mirage of deep, understated rapture. Yet, though he's not temperamentally a blusterer, he saluted spring in "Herr Lenz", with as much ringing swagger as the best of them, and rounded off "Cäcilie" with real steel in the voice.

Over the years, Keenlyside has freed up his acting skills a good deal, and recently, at the Barbican, he showed what a good mover he is in the title role of Monteverdi's *Orfeo*. Four songs from Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* drew from him, at one extreme ("Der Schildwache Nachthalt"), the most probing, melancholic reflections, and at the other, a wonderful gift for sardonic mimicry in the song contest between a cuckoo and a nightingale judged by a donkey ("Der lobt hohen Verstandes").

Perhaps, in songs by Debussy, Keenlyside's diction did not exactly dance on his lips - I found a lot of the words unclear, though he did tighten his voice, and contrasted half and full tone almost to excess.

Which was a far cry from the four songs of his final group, by Tosti. Beautifully written for the voice, they must be a singer's dream, and no doubt it's tempting to overdo their ardour.

Keenlyside took their effusiveness to just the right degree, so that their musical fluency could make its effect without mannerism.

ADRIAN JACK

Drumming their way out of a plastic bag

LIKE A great string quartet or jazz group, the four percussionists of Ensemble Bash seem to have developed that almost telepathic form of ensemble communication, an empathy that allows them to play a wide range of genres with accuracy and gusto.

But unlike the Modern Jazz Quartet or Kronos, they don't have an ensemble "sound". The nature of their calling means that each member plays at least a dozen different instruments - tuned and otherwise - from all over the world.

What makes Ensemble Bash distinctive is their way of doing things, plus a variable but expanding repertoire of percussion quartet pieces they have built up through commissions and adaptations.

The most satisfying music in their concert for the Spitalfields Festival came from pieces and idioms they have been playing for some time. The single-set concert opened and closed with new arrangements of African music that incorporate several big Ghanian xylophones that dominated the stage. For these pieces, ensemble regulars Richard Benjedid, Chris Brannick, Stephen Hiscock and Andrew Martin

were augmented by percussionists Paulinus Bozie and Mario Deiekuroh.

The resulting sextet, a bigger Bash, produced a dense, exciting ensemble sound with timbres that shifted and developed slowly over ten or fifteen-minute stretches, the musicians moving from instrument to instrument with evident ease and enjoyment.

Other core repertoire favourites included Benjedid's clever arrangements of a handful of Chick Corea's Children's Songs, used as punctuation - short, quiet interludes between the longer works.

Yet the two big new pieces, heralded as "major world premieres", were disappointing: maybe they needed more "playing in" to do justice to their composers' intentions. Where jazz and rock groups develop work in progress on the road, and theatre companies do out-of-town previews for plays and musicals, contemporary "classical" concerts tend to make a

big deal about the first performance - which often turns out to be the last.

I hope this is not the case for *The Art of Concealment* by Christopher Fox or for *Nocturno y Toque*, by Javier Alvarez. Fox's was one of Ensemble Bash's "carrier bag" commissions for instruments that can be carried to the gig (without the fuss of big trucks and difficult "get-ins" that baffle percussionists).

The episodic structure of the piece, which involved instruments hidden in coat pockets, waistcoat pockets and plastic bags with manuscript paper concealed in carefully chosen books, resulted in a kind of deadpan music theatre of the absurd. Fox's best music has a knack of catching the listener by surprise, hovering in the space between captivating miniature and ambitious magnum opus, but this was neither Alvarez's piece, for two tenor steel pans and two marimbas, produced some lovely washes of sound, blurred tonalities and a kind of heat haze of interacting system patterns formed from the intriguing combination of instruments, in which the sour tones of the steel drums dominated the sweet timbres of the marimbas.

And however adventurous Ensemble Bash's programme might be, they had the commercial nous to include at least one classic work by a dead composer.

Second Construction, by

John Cage, was a highlight of the concert, given an appropriately sensitive and reverent performance in the beautiful ambience of Christ Church. JOHN L WALTERS

This charming man

MUSIC
JOSE FELICIANO
JAZZ CAFE
LONDON

HALF THE charm of the night's key number is that it's a request you don't necessarily expect a chap like Jose Feliciano to make.

It's one thing for Jim Morrison to gyrate and fiddle with his zip and arrogantly demand that a woman light his fire; quite another when the words are murmured as a loving invitation. *Light My Fire* works as well, if not better, when it comes from Feliciano, which is probably why it got to number one in 1968, just months after the Doors reached that spot with their organ-heavy original. Tonight, Feliciano delivers it with intense concentration, caressing his guitar as if it were his wife and leading men helplessly to caress their girlfriends.

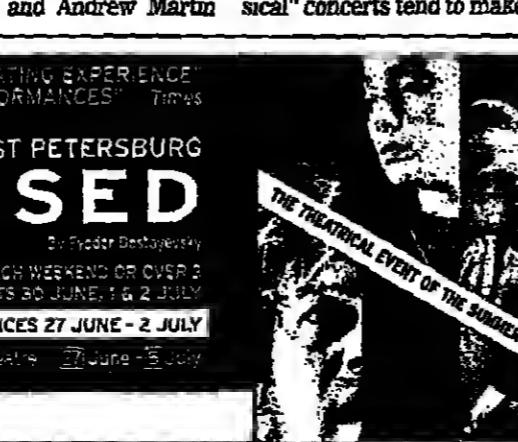
He has, of course, more strings than this to his acoustic. Born blind in 1945, one of 11 brothers, Feliciano moved with his family from Puerto Rico to Harlem at the age of five; his first musical experience was accompanying his uncle's singing by drumming on a biscuit tin. He learned the accordion, then, aged eight, picked up a guitar and taught himself to play by practising for up to 14 hours a day. "Being blind, I had to concentrate on one thing," he has said. "And once I found that thing, I had to be better than good at it."

The final impetus, if needed, was when his father lost his job, and Feliciano took his seductive Latin-American rhythm and blues to the coffee houses of Greenwich Village. Since then, he's sold more than 90 million records, won handfuls of Grammys and played alongside Joni Mitchell, the Grateful Dead and Chuck Berry.

A slight man, who has to be led carefully down the venue's steep steps to the stage, he launches into a steamy "Feel Like Making Love", a sparkling "Dance With Me", and a psychadelic "Sunshine of Your Love". The aces he holds are his eloquent guitar playing and a voice that's both coaxing and vulnerable. It's wooing, yet achingly uncertain, and this, I think, is just where we came in.

GLYN BROWN

José Feliciano plays the Jazz Caf all this week.



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CLOTHES LINE



Paul Mussen

OUT OF THE CLOSET

SAMANTHA NORMAN, ROVING TV PRESENTER AND SELF-CONFESSED SHOPAHOLIC, OPENS THE DOORS ON HER WARDROBE...

MY WARDROBE is a complete mess. I love my clothes, but for some reason I feel the need to throw them around a lot – probably because I've got so many, there's nowhere to put them all. As you can guess, I shop a lot. In fact, it has become a compulsion. As a TV presenter, you are judged by what you look like, and I think that, coupled with my love of dressing up and my Dad (Barry Norman), who is also a shopaholic, has led to my addiction. My general rule is to wear white in summer and black in winter, but at the moment I am wearing a sugar pink cardigan a lot which I bought at Elan. The cardie, together with my Dolce & Gabbana sunglasses – which will have to be surgically removed from my head soon – and a pair of high Gina shoes, are my favourite things at the moment. I think my worst ever buy was an Idol dress I wore to the BAFTA Awards last year. I was eight months pregnant at the time, and I thought it would look good over my bump. It did, but to pay £200 for a dress you are only going to wear once, is a fortune.

For work, I buy a lot of Strenesse suits. They make me feel confident. M&S I don't like so much. Their colours don't suit me, but I do like Morgan, it's so sexy, and good for staple items. I also shop at Hype DF and Koochal for bits and bobs.

I'd say my overall style is eclectic but particular. There are a few items in my wardrobe that don't fit that description. Both were present from my parents and have great sentimental value. Dad bought me a black leather mini-skirt when I was 16 that I still have, and mum knitted me a jumper with the face of my pony on it. I also have a red sun-dress I've had for ten years, which I still wear. If I were to offer any fashion advice it would be to buy kids' clothes. There's no VAT on them, so they're a lot cheaper.

MELANIE RICKY

HOT THING

THE HUSSEIN CHALAYAN SAMPLE SALE
COVENT GARDEN



Chris Moore

CHECK THE bank account for funds, ask for an overdraft, or borrow money, quick! All day tomorrow, Friday and Saturday, British designer Hussein Chalayan is holding a unique sale of his clothes. It is not a sample sale in the traditional sense; they usually offer ~~old~~ ~~old~~ items, clothes, shoes and accessories, used in seasonal catwalk shows or left over from previous seasons. This sale offers a comprehensive selection from his current collection – the clothes available in the shops now – at prices that will quicken the pulse of his legion of fans, and excite lovers of avant-garde British fashion.

A sneak preview revealed day-wear pieces in white and navy linen, including skirt front trousers, wide leg trousers, a Mongolian style jacket and a few jersey dresses with his signature sprograph print, and knits but no evening wear. The cape-sleeved jacket and pleated

skirt shown above, for example, would have cost £525 from a boutique, but it will be £250 all-in from the sale. Interested? If you are, bear in mind the average price for a jacket is £170, a skirt £70 and a pair of trousers about £55. These prices, while hardly a snip, are not to be sniffed at; I looked at a French Connection or Saturday and there was, as usual, some lovely things to buy, in particular a gorgeous pleated skirt for £20. I nearly bought it, but the possibility of having a Hussein Chalayan pleated skirt for £70 was infinitely more appealing, and frankly, an opportunity not to be missed.

MELANIE RICKY

Hussein Chalayan, Room B, 1st Floor Rear, 71 Endell Street, Covent Garden, London WC2
Enquiries: 0171 379 5236
Thursday from 10 am to 7 pm
Friday from 10 am to 6 pm
Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm

FASHION TYPES

the Fashion P.R.



Above: the Miss Fleur team and their children, dressed in their mothers' bohemian designs. Below: Sarah Hiscox from Utiliti, with her son

Andrew Lamb

Mother knows best

Buying your children clothes can be hard on your wallet and even harder on your wardrobe. But three British mothers have designs to change all that. By Jessica Stein

DESIGNER KIDSWEAR does not have to mean DKNY or Calvin Klein – clothes that are often just over-priced versions of basics from Gap. But do not despair; there is an alternative to both designer logos and the high street's obsession with Sporty Spice. Three independent British companies are making clothes they hope both you and your child will really, really want.

Utiliti, Rachel Riley and Miss Fleur are all run by mothers who work from home, manufacturing their clothes on a small scale and selling through chic, modern boutiques. Not only are you buying a unique piece of organic quality clothing; you are buying into part of a homegrown lifestyle as well.

Sarah Hiscox, of the Utiliti label, started designing children's clothes about a year and a half ago. "I've got a little boy of three and I was very frustrated with the clothes that were available for him," she says. "You either had Gap, which is very preppy American, Hennes, which is quite tacky, or Paul Smith, which is too expensive."

Sarah sells her clean, simple, Eastern-modern, denim clothing at The Cross near London's Holland Park. The Mickey Mouse free zone of Utiliti was established after a brief spell with ex-model Jenny Howarth when Sarah's company, then known as Howarth Hiscox, became Utiliti.

Hiscox's concept was simple and clever: to design matching clothes for mothers and children. The collection starts at around £15 for a baby hat to £20 for a pair of children's trousers. "I wanted clothes that I would wear but shrunk in size," she explains. Two seasons on, her modernist, no-fills clothes for 0-8 year olds and adults – denim Nehru jackets, combat trousers and simple quality hand knitted sweaters – have caused a flurry among celebrity mothers, including Nicole Kidman, Paula Yates, Jade Jagger and Yasmin Le Bon.

Despite having already been contacted by Harrods, Sarah is for the moment staying manageably small. She is now in partnership with former fashion coordinator for Macys in San Francisco, Kathleen Bolwell, and the two have plans to produce a clean, modern, mail-order catalogue by Christmas.

Down in Knightsbridge, former model, Rachel Riley has set up another indie kid haven. She started off by selling her self-made, traditional children's clothes by mail-order. Five years on, she has recently opened a shop selling both children's and ladieswear in London's new boutique location, Pont Street.

"I would never have dared set up a shop without having had a regular clientele," says Rachel. "I think catalogues are really practical but



you need to see and touch the clothes to see the quality of the fabrics and manufacturing."

Rachel commutes to London three times a week from her home in The Loire Valley. Her photographer husband shoots their catalogues and postcards which feature Rachel and their three children. "Working from home is extremely practical for women like me with young children," she says. "It doesn't mean to say because you manufacture you have to go off to Hong Kong or China or India and have vast quantities of things made up. There's another way of doing it on a smaller scale."

The Rachel Riley selection of traditional clothes is not run of the mill. Pyjamas come with leopard

print piping and matching leopard print slippers and embroidered organza dresses are lined with white muslin. She has everything, from Liberty print smock dresses to Jelly, all sold beautifully packaged with a bag of sugared almonds tossed in for that extra something.

"We are not harking back to some kind of 'lost era', but there are a whole load of classics, that unless you can do them better, they're probably not worth changing at all. We are trying to do something traditional but interesting as well," she says.

For something a bit more bohemian, Miss Fleur is like the ultra-hip South Kensington label, Voyage, but for 2-8 year olds. The label is run by four women: Tiphaine de Lussy, Natasha Radcliffe-Thomas, Carolyn Clever and former stylist Caroline McIlwain. "We didn't want to go back to full-time jobs with mad hours. We wanted to be in charge of our time and be able to look after our kids," says former Royal College fashion graduate Tiphaine, who also happens to be married to Dinos Chapman. She dreamt up the concept with Natasha two years ago.

"We felt that there was a gap in the market for what we wanted to do, which was partywear. We began to make these dresses, mixing up colours and fabrics but keeping the silhouette simple."

Everything is tried out on their kids, who also modelled at Miss Fleur's first fashion show at Alternative Fashion Week in March 1997. This season's collection is Chinese-inspired, with Tiger Lily dresses in two-tone silk. For next winter, the theme is "Princess", with medieval-shaped dresses in denim and silk. "We always look for quirky concepts, never the obvious," says Tiphaine.

Miss Fleur is available at The Cross, as well as Small Talk in Nottingham. At the moment they're content to manufacture and market their transfer print T-shirts and satin make-up bags themselves on a small scale.

Rachel Riley, 14 Pont Street, London SW1, mail order and enquiries 0171-259 5563. Prices from: slippers, £25; cotton dress, £40; embroidered organza dress, £175. Utiliti, available from The Cross, 141 Portland Road, London W11, enquiries 0171-727 6760. Prices from: knitted hat, £18; denim trousers, £40; knitted jacket, £25.

Miss Fleur, available from: The Cross, as before and Small Talk, 102A Parkgate Street, Nottingham, enquiries 0115-948 1303. Prices from: Chinese turquoise dress, £50; yellow party dress with pink net underskirt, £60.



Summer collection by Rachel Riley. Prices range from £25 for slippers to £175 for an embroidered organza dress

كلها من الأصل

Beauty school drop out

Pull on those pedal pushers: *Grease* is at the cinema and the Fifties are back. By Tamsin Blanchard. Photographs by Jon Mortimer

Grease is the word and - by the time the movie is re-released on the big screen in July - the look too. Every so often, fashion returns to the style of the Fifties. John Galliano did it with his pin-up collection in the summer of 1995 when he had his models wearing bustiers and prom dresses draped over candy-coloured Chevrolets. Versace did baby-coloured

bobby socks and satin pencil skirts. Dries Van Noten had a season when he moved away completely from his usual ethnic inspiration and designed a collection of prim pencil skirts and dresses with big skirts.

The Fifties draws designers to itself like a magnet, attracted to the movie-star glamour, poring over pictures of Marilyn Monroe, Grace Kelly and Doris Day. They bark back to the glory days of Christian

Dior, Balenciaga and Givenchy. They are also fascinated by the birth of the teenager, at the end of the Fifties, when kids stopped dressing as mini-replicas of their parents and adopted a style of their own. The Fifties is the one decade that never really goes away; it is always on the brink of revival, and an endless source of inspiration, from Hollywood to Elvis.

This summer is no exception. Everywhere I look, I see pedal push-

ers, pastel colours, and denim. Instead of the decade's grown up culture, this season's look stems from western-style, bubble-gum-chewing prom queens and American teenyboppers. It's not just a Fifties revival; it is a Fiorucci revival. The Italian company was in its heyday in the Seventies when the King's Road store repackaged the Fifties in its own bright, brash and trashy style. These days, you have to go to Milan for the

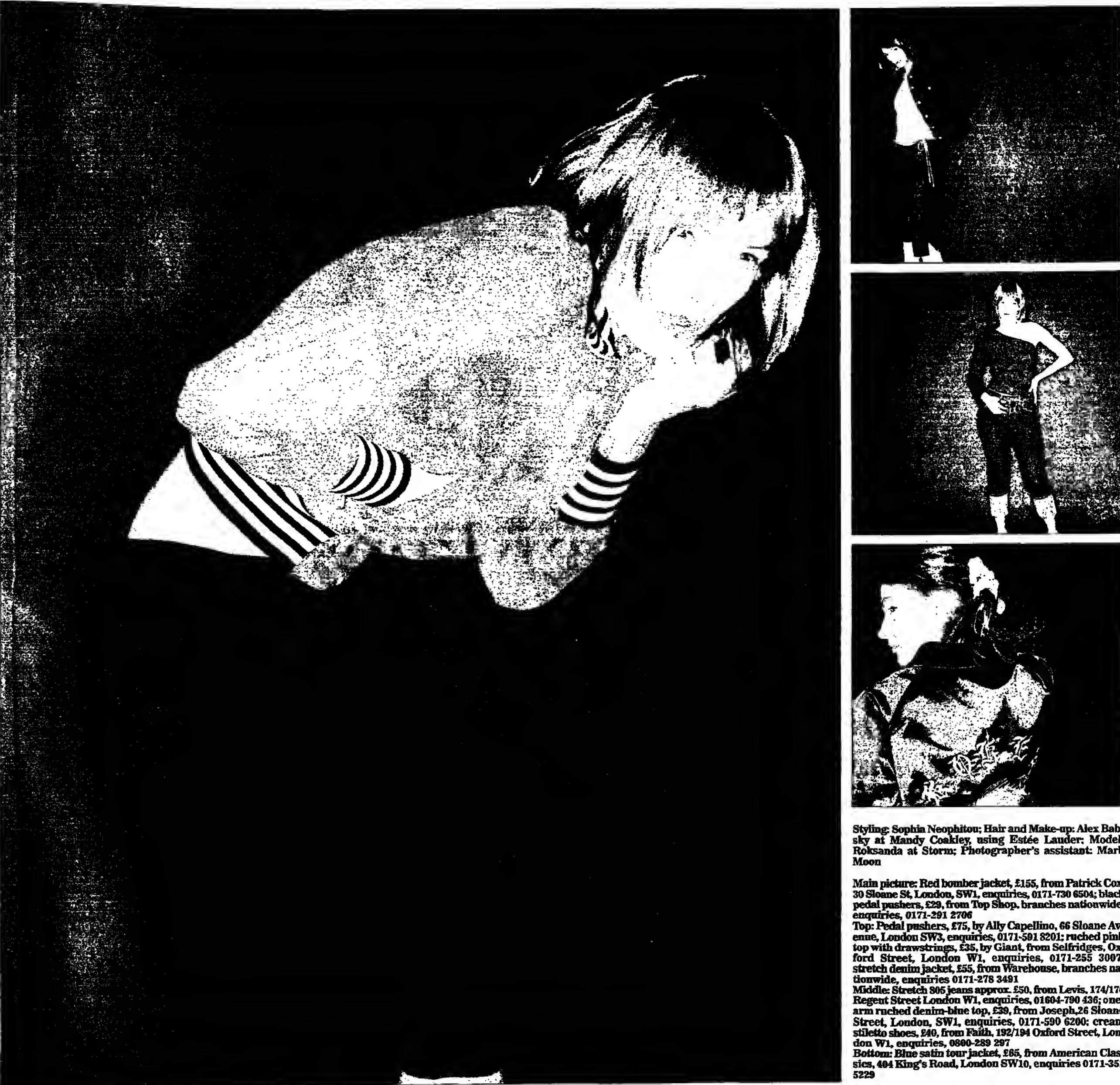
Fiorucci experience. But the look has been pillaged by stores such as French Connection who are selling out of their denim stretch drainpipe pedal pushers (like the ones that used to require the help of a coat hanger and an extra pair of hands to pull the zip up, before Fiorucci came up with the bright idea of stretch) faster than they can stock them.

Grease was first released in 1978 when the Fifties were only just ripe

for revival. Twenty years later the movie's style - a pastiche of the original high-school love stories of *West Side Story*, *Rebel Without a Cause* and *American Graffiti* - looks as fresh and as hip as ever. Patrick Cox thinks so, too, looking to the Fiorucci Fifties for his summer collection. The designer who now designs clothes as well as shoes, staged a mock photo shoot instead of a catwalk show for his spring/summer collection. The

wind machine blew as girls with glossy lips and Pink Lady jump suits, bomber jackets and spray-on trousers, posed for the camera.

The best way to avoid looking like a Fifties throwback is to mix the new with the old: an original satin bomber jacket from a vintage clothing store with a pair of new Levi's, cropped a few inches short of the ankle. Bobby socks are not advisable unless you are under the age of 12.



Styling: Sophia Neophitou; Hair and Make-up: Alex Babsky at Mandy Coakley, using Estée Lauder; Model: Roksanda at Storm; Photographer's assistant: Mark Moon

Main picture: Red bomber jacket, £155, from Patrick Cox, 30 Sloane St, London, SW1, enquiries, 0171-730 6504; black pedal pushers, £29, from Top Shop, branches nationwide, enquiries, 0171-291 2706

Top: Pedal pushers, £75, by Aly Capellino, 66 Sloane Avenue, London SW3, enquiries, 0171-591 8201; ruched pink top with drawstrings, £35, by Giant, from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London, W1, enquiries, 0171-255 3007; stretch denim jacket, £55, from Warehouse, branches nationwide, enquiries 0171-278 3491

Middle: Stretch 805 jeans approx. £50, from Levis, 174/176 Regent Street London W1, enquiries, 0171-790 436; one-arm ruched denim-blue top, £39, from Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, London, SW1, enquiries, 0171-590 6200; cream stiletto shoes, £20, from Faith, 192/194 Oxford Street, London W1, enquiries, 0800-289 297

Bottom: Blue satin tour jacket, £85, from American Classics, 404 King's Road, London SW10, enquiries 0171-351 5229

The early bird gets the bargain



Silver Byblos jacket

BAD JUNE weather may have had you swathed in waterproofs, or indoors until last weekend, but look on the bright side, it resulted in the summer sales starting one month earlier than usual. A number of reasons were bandied about as to why "July" sales have crept into June - from "it feels like the right time", to "no particular strategy". But, as one honest retailer commented "we haven't had a very good season".

In a nutshell, this means you can buy designer clothes at sale prices. Swift action is required but check your credit card limit and hit the sales now - there's

much more choice. Secondly, start at designer level and work your way down. The best places to start are always at the designer emporiums, like Dolce & Gabbana (40 per cent off), Comme des Garçons (30 per cent off), and Liberty (up to 50 per cent off), whose sales began last week. The High Street kicks into action from next week.

Liberty has discounts on every fabulous designer worth mentioning, including Ann Demeulemeester, Galliano and McQueen. In fact, their half price bargains are worth queuing for: one McQueen women's jack-

et has been reduced from £445 to £222, and a Helmut Lang men's cotton suit has gone from £385 to £250, which will amaze the people who paid full price just a few weeks ago. Other designer's on offer at half price include English Eccentrics and Betty Jackson.

Confronted with a choice of designer menswear bargains, I couldn't choose between a loud and colourful Issey Miyake photoprint cagoule or more sober cotton combat trousers from Joseph and the khaki shirt from Paul Smith, shown right. I still can't make up my mind, but suspect the crepe soled, backless

loafers from Patrick Cox will be in my wardrobe soon.

Hannah Turner, left, was also faced with a sale dilemma. She preferred the liquid silver Byblos jacket, and Sportmax beaded skirt and camisole shown here, reduced from £269 to £237, over a pink devore Whistles dress, down from £155 to £77, despite the additional cost. Hannah's sale shopping motto is: "You can get practically from Oxford; when I go looking for bargains, they must be glamourous." For outright glamour she could pick up a slinky, black Gucci-logo halterneck dress at

Joseph, down from £610 to £430, or one of Aly Capellino's elegant range of bias cut dresses, from £248 to £243. Alternatively, she could drop into Pleats Please (offshoot of Issey Miyake) and check out their 30% reduced rail of photoprint dresses. If Hannah wants a day off from being a glamour-puss, however, Emporio Armani's classic white-leg grey herringbone trouser suit may be just the ticket. It might cost £265 (a saving of £114), but will retain its elegance and style long after the liquid silver jacket loses its sheen.

ADAM FULCHER



Paul Smith and Joseph

Jon Mortimer

Never mind the width, feel the quality

Maximum market share, the goal of all good business planning, may be a red herring. By Roger Trapp

IF THERE is a single guiding principle that is reckoned to be behind success in business, it is probably gaining market share. This is the thinking behind much of the current crop of mergers; for example, those that created the accounting behemoth Pricewaterhouse Coopers, "the world's biggest professional services firm". Aiming to be number one is seen as such a self-evidently grand strategy that to question it is thought of as naive in the extreme. Get lots of revenue and profits will inevitably follow, not least because of the resulting economies of scale, goes the argument.

But while this sort of approach may have worked for Lord Weinstock when he was building up GEC, it does not seem as powerful today as many merger partners would have you believe. Indeed, some of PWCoopers' rivals in the

Such well-known US companies as IBM, General Motors, Ford, Kodak and Sears Roebuck have achieved leading market shares and yet seen their profitability, and hence their share values, eroded

professional services field take the view that there are some clients they would rather not have, and there is a growing school of thought that believes that "market share is dead".

As Adrian Slywotzky and David Morrison of Mercer Management Consulting point out in their book *The Profit Zone* (John Wiley & Sons, £16.99), some disturbing examples have subverted "the widespread faith in market share as the ultimate goal and guarantee of business success". Such well-known US companies as IBM, Digital Equipment, General Motors, Ford, Kodak and Sears Roebuck have achieved leading market shares and yet seen their profitability, and hence their share values, eroded during the 1980s.

Some of these organisations have recovered of late, but the authors attribute that recovery at least in part to focusing on profit, rather than just market share. In short, they have realised that, though market

share was "the grand old metric, the guiding light, the compass of the product-centric age", it is no longer the thought of manager will probably have come to this conclusion, simply by looking around and seeing how many companies - particularly in the high-tech arena - have made healthy profits just by operating effectively in niches. But it is quite another thing to work out a way of turning a company focused on market share into one that concentrates on profitability.

Slywotzky and Morrison argue that this is dependent on understanding the concept of "no-profit zones", or the "black holes of the business universe". These come in various forms. They can be part of the value chain - for example distribution in computers. They can be customer segments - ie, consistent bad debtors; if you are a utility, or those who remain steadfastly in the black and carry out few transactions if you are a bank. They can be entire industries - for example, environmental remediation. Or they can be entire business models, such as the integrated steel mills that have been bested by the "mini-mills".

Once this concept is clear, the theory goes, managers will be able to identify "profit zones". The Mercer consultants illustrate their case with instances of well-known business leaders such as Jack Welch of General Electric of the United States, former Coca-Cola chief executive Roberto Goizueta, and Michael Eisner of Disney who have seen how they can create value for their organisations.

At Disney, for example, Eisner has used merchandise licensing to knit the empire together. Mickey Mouse, the Lion King and other characters are pressed into action to provide a common link between films, theme parks, hotels, videos and even clothes. There is little risk of somebody, particularly a child, just seeing a film, or visiting a theme park. It is little wonder that Slywotzky and Morrison reckon Disney is able to take as much of 75 per cent of a family's holiday spend - by owning the hotel, the theme park, the restaurants, the merchandise.

But this is not the only way of achieving the "right kind of growth". While Disney is not too fussy about who its customers are, so long as they spend lots of money, other companies clearly take the view that some customers are more valuable than others.

This is most apparent in financial services, where insurance companies, for instance, will refuse to take on certain high risks because their strategy is to offer low premiums to particular customers. This



Disney may rely on Goofy and other cartoon characters for its image, but the reality is that its theme parks are extremely efficient and take as much as 75 per cent of a family's holiday spend

approach helps to explain how some new entrants to the market have proved very successful while older established names have often struggled. It also helps explain why the Texas-based company Dell is a darling stock of the computer business despite being a manufacturer of hardware, and therefore much less profitable, supposedly, than processor or software businesses.

According to Orit Gadiesh and James Gilbert, partners at the Bain & Co consultancy, the company founded in 1984 by Michael Dell got into trouble when it decided to break with its original strategy of selling by mail order. Going into retail produced plenty of growth - 50 per cent a year from 1989 to 1993 - but the company stopped making money and actually suffered losses.

In an article in the *Harvard Business Review*, Gadiesh and Gilbert quote Kevin Rollins, the company's vice-chairman, as saying that "Dell had lost its focus on the most profitable customer segments and on a distribution model that is at heart more efficient than what the retailer can provide."

Analysing the data, the company's executives concluded that retail was simply not a profitable channel for Dell - or for most other companies selling computers. Moreover, when the company pulled out of retail in 1994, it geared its business to serving only the most profitable segments of its customer base, such as large companies. In the years since then, the company has regularly "re-segmented" its customer base, tracking shifts in what the con-

sultants call the "profit pool" so that it can respond more quickly than competitors to changes in the market. And when it entered the mass consumer market, which it had habitually stayed away from, it took care - through the product mix and their pricing - to attract customers who are technologically more sophisticated, and hence more profitable, than entry-level buyers.

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It is wrong, says the ASB, to treat all public assets the same, and assume that risk can equally be transferred from the public to the private sectors. "A road may easily transfer to the private sector, but with hospitals it is more difficult," says Allan Cook, technical director of the ASB. "Most of the risks in a hospital will not be connected to the building. The risk will still be borne by the Government."

Mr Cook says the Treasury is wrong to focus so heavily on risk transfer. A good PFI deal may still be justifiable without a transfer of risk if it achieves a reduction in revenue costs, even if the debt is still incurred by the Government, which can borrow more cheaply than can the private sector. But, says Mr Cook, it is wrong for the Treasury to hide a debt which, if the crunch came, it would have to pick up.

A similar point is made by Ken Wild, of Deloitte & Touche. "At the moment people associate the PFI with off-balance sheet finance, which is seen as an accounting fiddle," he argues. "It is not in anybody's interest to have it viewed in that way."

Concerns have also been raised that the real cost of PFI deals in the long term may be higher than traditional borrowing arrangements.

Significantly, what has previously

Treasury and ASB are at loggerheads over a political matter. By Paul Gosling

THE PRIVATE Finance Initiative looks set to hit further trouble, with the disclosure that the Treasury and the Accounting Standards Board still seem unable to reach agreement on how to account for PFI deals. Meanwhile, political opposition to the PFI has been taken on by the British Medical Association, concerned that there could be major job losses of doctors and nurses at hospitals that are redeveloped using the PFI.

It had seemed likely that the ASB, headed by the no-nonsense Sir David Tweedie, and the Treasury would reach a compromise on PFI accounting. Conciliation had been assisted by the Treasury allocating an official to sit on the ASB's working party to examine PFI arrangements, and the group visiting PFI-funded projects to see the benefits of the schemes for themselves.

But after months of discussions the Treasury is still determined to attract private finance to redevelop the public infrastructure, while not countering it against the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement or the now increasingly used General Government Financial Deficit. The ASB, is equally adamant that where there is an asset, financed by underlying debt, it should appear on a balance sheet. Past failures to report such debts were a prime cause of corporate failures, it points out.

In the end, says the Treasury, it can do what it likes. The ASB has jurisdiction only over the private sector. But, says the ASB, this is a mockery of the Government's attempts to harmonise private and public sector accounting standards.

The ASB recently conducted a survey of accountancy firms to ensure they supported the ASB's line. The outcome was another division. Auditors were fully behind the ASB. Corporate finance advisers, on the other hand, did not want to undermine the PFI's progress.

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Significantly, what has previously

between accountants and civil servants is now taking on a wider political dimension.

Dr Jean Shaoul, of Manchester University's department of finance and accounting, is a strong critic of the PFI. She says that the public sector's move to resource accounting and the Treasury's drawing up a "Domesday" list of public assets, taken with the failure of the Government itself to finance capital projects, will exacerbate pressures on health trusts to enter into PFI contracts.

Under the Treasury's new resource accounting and budgeting rules, public bodies must now achieve a return on capital of 6 per cent. This aim is artificially made more difficult, argues Dr Shaoul, by valuing hospital buildings at current replacement cost, rather than at historic cost as the private sector would do. The rate of return can only be achieved by some hospitals if staffing levels and services are cut, and surplus land disposed of.

It is often the surplus land that makes hospitals particularly attractive for PFI deals, but underused land may be situated in the middle of a complex. This is leading to pressure to redevelop entire hospitals, even when comparatively modern. What is more, Dr Shaoul adds, there has been an average reduction of 30 per cent in beds and clinical jobs where hospitals are replaced under



Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the ASB

PFI contracts, because of the high PFI charges. But, she says, staffing cuts threaten income generation.

It has been assumed by health trusts and the Government that this bed and staff reduction is sustainable by discharging patients more quickly. Dr Shaoul and the BMA challenge this, saying that with more elderly and single people the policy can work only if local authorities and families take on responsibility for post-operative care.

Dr Shaoul predicts serious problems if the Government does not rethink both its PFI and resource accounting rules. "They are financially unstable and will have dire consequences of massive job losses and service reductions," she predicts. "They are effectively liquidi-

UPDATE

specific careers in the City. The school will involve six departments, including accounting and financial services, computing, information systems and maths and economics, and will offer both vocational and professional education.

THE GOVERNMENT is to pioneer use of a smart-card signature service, launched last week by Barclays Bank, to enable new self-employed individuals to register their status on the Internet. This initial application of the Barclays Endorse card, which will enable documents to be signed digitally for submission via the Internet to the Contributions Agency, the Inland Revenue and HM Customs & Excise, will be tested over the next six months in nine locations around the country.

THE INTRODUCTION of the euro from next January will provide a major opportunity for information technology fraud, according to research by the IT services company Grattan Group. It says that many European organisations preparing their IT systems for the euro, and also grappling with the Year 2000 problem, face significantly increased risks of financial loss from both inadvertent errors and intentional computer-related fraud.

TILLINGSTAFF TOWERS Perrin, the management consultancy, has launched a worldwide capital management practice that it claims helps insurers achieve more effective utilisation of their capital. At a time when the insurance industry continues to consolidate, insurers realise that achieving higher capital productivity and company value success, says the firm.



THE TRADER

RORY HAS taken Sam to the cleaners. In a manner of speaking. What actually happened was a blazing row over Saturday lunch - something to do with Rory having dinner with his wife - at the high point of which Sam stormed out and Rory hit the bottle. Several hours later, in a drunken rage, he bundled all Sam's designer duds into a taxi and drove off with them to the dry cleaners.

In itself, taking your girlfriend's clothes to be cleaned is not grounds for separation, especially when you were the one who bought them in the first place. Unfortunately, when he woke up in an alley off Oxford Street in the small hours, it was all he could do to remember his name, let alone where he'd taken Sam's threads. Someone had lifted his wallet as he slept, so he didn't even have the receipts.

When Sam came back from her mum's on Sunday afternoon and found her denuded ward-

robe, the hoped-for reconciliation - flowers, chocolates and dinner somewhere posh - hit the dust. Rory slept on the sofa at the far end of the Docklands warehouse conversion, saved from having the bedroom door slammed in his face only by the fact that there wasn't one. Since then, they've hardly spoken, not even in the office. It isn't helping the poor girl's temper to have to walk around in her pre-Rory nylon suits from shops called things like "Miss Tammy" and "Empatique".

Perrier and picked at salads before dashing back for a midnight visit to the office. "Don't worry, they'll find a way," I assure her. "Big, big houses and big cars, for a start. Then tiny, tiny mobile phones and tiny, tiny computers, and one day they'll realise they can't find a thing because it's all Goldman Sachs."

This would be more bearable if we hadn't, a year ago, been involved in some fairly heavy discussions with Goldman's about a team move there. The deal never came off, because Rory thought they were too boring for words, and they thought he was too "interesting". If it had, we would now be whooping it up big-time and planning ways to spend our millions. "Though what constitutes 'whooping it up' at Goldman Sachs is hard to imagine, isn't it?" Laura says thoughtfully, no doubt remembering that dinner where the Goldman boys drank

LONDON GUILDRALL University has set up a business school that will target what it sees as the lack of educational courses training people for



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Interested applicants should send a detailed CV and covering letter to Mrs D Bailey, GMBM Response Management Services, Landseer House, 19 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0EE. Please quote reference RC031 on all correspondence.



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BUSINESS MANAGER

Matching Brigade Development Trust is a well established centre which provides young people with the artisan skills needed to find employment or to start their own business. It also serves the local community by creating employment. A Manager with excellent finance administration and marketing skills is now needed to be responsible for the overall business and financial management of the Brigade. You'll co-ordinate all aspects of activities - assisting unit managers with planning, budgeting, management and marketing procedures, in order to establish unit business plans; submit regular financial reports and undertake internal audits for every unit, and the Centre as a whole; develop and maintain proper financial control systems; review, recommend and implement improvements to the trust's policies; develop and maintain effective human resource development systems. You'll need a mature, flexible outlook and to be an excellent communicator. If you are willing to learn Seswana, so much the better.

BUSINESS ADVISER - FUND RAISING

The Community Self Help Development Organisation encourages recipients to accept responsibility, to promote self-confidence and to work together in the interest of promoting community development. We are now looking for someone to advise the Executive Committee on fund-raising. You will need to be enterprising, innovative and creative with excellent problem solving skills. Communication, interpersonal and intercultural skills are paramount. Part of your role will be to help groups to write business plans and proposals - at all times working with limited resources; develop training modules for enterprise management skills; assist enterprises and develop operational and strategic plans. It would be very desirable for you to be able to communicate in Seswana.

Payments are for two years. Flights, N.I. payments, living allowance, accommodation, health insurance and pre and post placement grants will be provided. Interested applicants should contact the Cooperante Services Unit or an application form and further information SkillsShare Africa, 125 New Walk, Leicester LE1 7JA. Tel: 0116 254 0577 (24 hour answering phone). Please state clearly which post you are interested in and quote reference 1/06/98. Closing date: 3 July 1998. Interviews will take place between 22 and 30 July 1998.

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THE INDEPENDENT

So where do you want this oil, mate?

You're a commodities trader. You've bought 1,000 barrels of North Sea crude. Why don't you have to take delivery? Stefan Bernstein explains

HOW MANY times have you seen it? Oil prices drop and the cost of petrol stays the same or even rises. The world's commodities are getting cheaper, but the average person doesn't benefit. Of course, when the reverse is true and oil prices are on the way up, pump prices are quick to follow suit. A lose-lose situation for the motorist.

Well here's a way that even small investors can fight back. With a little research and astute timing, you're profits could pay for all the fuel you'll ever need. And, along with the profits, you have the added advantage of feeling like a big-time investor without the financial backing of George Soros.

Call it commodities trading or dealing in futures, it still has a ring of mystery and excitement about it. It may simply be because so few people really understand what happens in the various dealing rooms and trading pits where chaos reigns, and those with the loudest voices and wildest gesticulations seem to come out on top. But the world's commodities markets are really nothing to be afraid of.

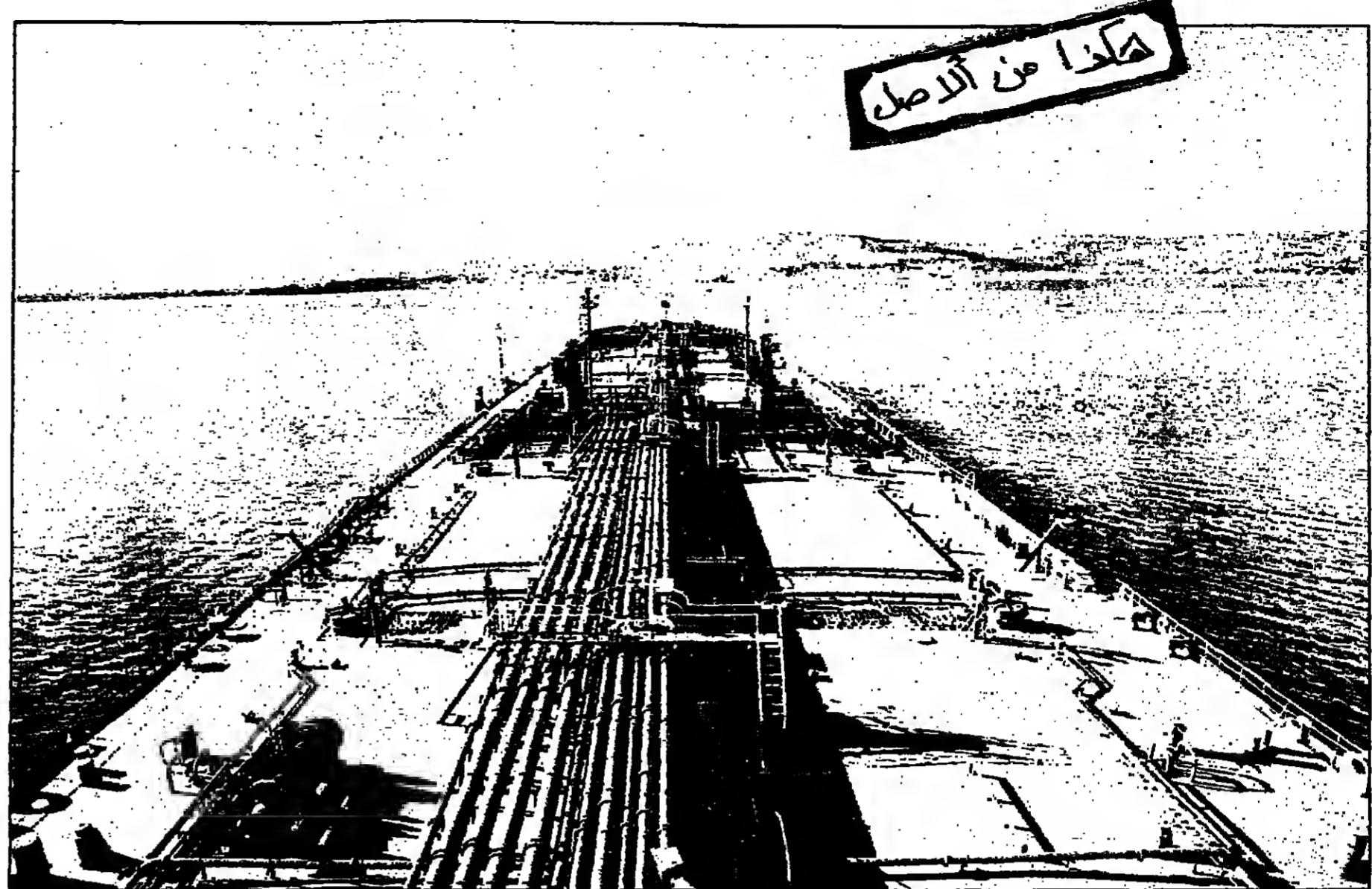
Whether it is the price of oil, some other physical commodity such as sugar or coffee, or an intangible such as a stock index, the commodities markets trade according to strict

"contract" specifications. These contracts specify fixed delivery dates and standard nominal values so that all the players in the market understand what it is, exactly, they are agreeing to buy or sell. So, anyone with access to a broker can trade in commodities.

For example, you might be happy to trade in an oil contract, but you will want to know the quantity of oil involved, the delivery date, the price and its grade. All these features are set down in considerable detail by the various markets (such as LIFFE, the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange), and this allows individuals to react quickly without ever having to think in depth about whether or not the "asset" in question is suitable. If someone buys a contract, then he is obliged to buy the asset on a particular date. If someone were to sell a commodities contract, then they would have to sell the particular assets in question on a particular date.

As always, an example is the easiest way of understanding why anybody would do this.

Imagine you are a speculator and you think that the price of oil is about to rocket because of difficulties in the oil producing regions. You would probably buy a futures con-



Call it commodities trading, and suddenly buying and selling oil has a ring of mystery and excitement about it

Niall Duffy

tract and would therefore be taking a "long position". Let's say the current futures prices of oil is £100 per contract (for easy reckoning). If, during the life of the contract, the price of the contract itself should rise to, say, £150, due to the perceived shortages actually becoming reality, then you would simply then sell your contract at £150 having made a handsome 50 per cent profit. At the same time the price of oil company shares may rise, but it would be by a much smaller amount. The best you could hope for in the equities market would be 4-5 per cent.

It is important to understand that when you buy a commodities or futures contract, the most you can actually lose is the total amount of your investment - £100 in the above example if oil should become worthless. This is, of course, highly un-

likely, and you should have the opportunity to follow the price down and salvage at least some of your money on the way out. The amount of profit you can make, however, is virtually unlimited.

You can also profit from falling prices. Imagine you hear that huge amounts of oil are about to be discovered in Antarctica and that this will halve the price. In this case, you can go out and sell the contract you bought in the previous example, for the same amount. You have now received £100 but you are obliged to make delivery of the oil on the specified date. Of course, you know that oil will collapse in price, that you will be able to buy the contract to close out your position at £25, and will therefore make £75 profit.

The placing of an order in the commodities market is devastatingly

simple once you have established a trading account. Imagine for example that you expect the price of oil to go down shortly. You will simply call your broker's trading desk and give your account number, asking to sell one June oil contract at the market. Your broker should hold for a few seconds before confirming that the deal has been done. This will be executed directly to the relevant trading floor at the relevant commodities exchange either by computer or by telephone. Your broker should then respond to the effect that you have sold one June oil contract at \$74 per barrel.

If you take out a long position in some commodity and you choose not to close the position, or forget to do so, what happens? If you'd purchased six tonnes of Robusta coffee,

your road, and promptly tip out a mountain of beans on your drive, the day after the contract expires?

Well, before you arrange coffee mornings for the next 30 years, this will not happen. As your contract nears maturity, be it long or short, your brokerage firm will be keeping a wary eye on it. Some time before "delivery", the firm will telephone all open long position holders and tell them to either close their position or prepare to take full delivery and also pay the value of the underlying contract. Similarly, holders of open short contracts will be asked to close out their trades or make ready to deliver the underlying commodity (and show they have the required quantity and quality available).

Even manufacturers and processing companies who trade with the commodity rarely take delivery

of the underlying goods. This is because the commodity contracts are rarely in the exact quality or grade that they need.

Instead they will close their position, having successfully hedged against price movements, and buy in the cash market. The cash market price will have followed the commodity price throughout the period in question. Only those companies who trade in a commodity for which they can find buyers of many different grades tend to take physical delivery.

Stefan Bernstein's book 'Understand Commodities in a Day' is available for £6.95, post-free, from TTL, PO Box 200, Harrogate HG1 2YR. Or fax credit card details on 01423 526035 or email ttl@compuserve.com

Are you ready to rock 'n' dole?

Welfare to Work will allow budding musicians to continue to claim benefit, and the pop moguls say the rules will be as tight as the hottest band in town. By Paul Slade



Even Oasis's Liam Gallagher had to start small

Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert

will then have meetings every two months with music industry volunteers to monitor their progress. But how can the scheme hope to distinguish between genuinely promising performers and the hordes of no-hoppers?

Andy Saunders, head of communications at Creation Records, says: "What we are looking for is commitment and passion. Anybody who has got

any nous about the music business can sit down with somebody and work out whether being a musician is the right thing for them. If you and I had a conversation for an hour, I think you'd find it very hard to bullshit me.

"Make no mistake about this - if the young person is not fulfilling their responsibilities, they're off the scheme. We don't want people who are half-assed

about it." Like Mr McGee, he plans to volunteer as a mentor under the scheme, and is confident that many other music industry workers will too.

Some people on the scheme will not become musicians, but will train for other jobs in the pop industry, such as becoming a recording engineer.

Musicians themselves can take an "open learning" option that requires them only to

keep a diary noting rehearsals that have been held and demonstration tapes recorded.

This conjures up the vision of a building Liam Gallagher sitting down quietly at the end of the day to complete his work diary: "Smashed up hotel room, punched bloke in front row." Surely rock stars in the future, just like Gallagher himself, will be fuelled by their own unquenchable self-belief rather than this kind of disciplined approach?

"A lot of great rock music does come from unconventional and anti-establishment feelings," Mr Saunders concedes. "But people have already got to be disciplined enough to sit down with an employment adviser and persuade him that they've been looking for work if they want to claim unemployment benefit now."

"What we've done is take the lying out of the process. Musicians won't have to lie that they have been out looking for work when what they've really been doing is being a musician."

Once musicians have completed the open learning segment of the scheme, they can move on to playing live and hustling for a record deal. This entitles them to a training allowance, equivalent to their normal JSA plus an extra £15.38 a week. Mr Saunders hopes the scheme will be up and running by September.

any credits they had instead.

At Midland Bank, Andrew Barnett says: "It's a difficult case, because it's at the riskier end of the spectrum. What happens would very much depend on the people involved and what, if any, money they were likely to be putting into it themselves."

Rather than offering the band a business loan, NatWest might encourage the members to take a personal loan or borrow on

John, 68, feels fine. But what if...

THE FIXERS



JAMES BRUCE

many, this burden falls to their children. As John does not have children, or close family, it was an issue that concerned him.

To solve this problem we implemented a long-term care insurance policy, on a minimum cover basis, with PPP Lifetime Care, a leading provider of long-term care plans. Its premier level of cover was chosen. This starts to provide funds towards the cost of care should John either fail two "activities of daily living", or suffer mental impairment. This cover could be funded either by a regular premium or by a one-off lump sum. John chose the lump sum option, costing £4,620.

"Activities of daily living" (ADLs) form the basis of an objective means of measuring frailty. These tests usually include mobility, washing, dressing, feeding, toileting and continence. The level of cover provided by John's plan is a partial long-term care benefit of £200 a month payable on the failure of two ADLs, and full benefit of £400 a month on the failure of three ADLs.

In John's case, the financial benefits provided by this arrangement are of secondary importance to the Care Support Service that is integral to the cover. The benefits provided through this service

are essentially threefold.

First, John now has immediate telephone access to specially trained staff who can provide information and advice on care-related issues. This service is available 24 hours a day.

Second, if John's health should deteriorate to a point where he qualifies for benefit, he will be assigned a "personal care counsellor" to create a package of care which suits his individual needs.

The counsellor will visit John's home and spend as much time as it takes to understand his particular wishes and concerns. This will enable the counsellor to devise and implement a package of care services that meet his requirements.

Surveys indicate that the average cost of nursing home accommodation is £17,800 a year, but this hides much local variation. Our firm, in the Colchester area of Essex, surveyed local nursing care homes last year and found an average cost of about £20,800 a year.

It was decided that John was in a fortunate position in that should he require care, he could comfortably afford the costs from his pension income without resorting to his savings.

Because of his financial resources, both in terms of income and savings, he would not qualify for local authority assistance.

John explained that should he require some form of care, he would wish to remain in his own home as long as possible.

We had established that financing the cost of care was not an issue, but who would organise it? This is not an eventuality that most people plan for. Consequently, when it occurs, most people are ill-prepared and don't know where to get help. For

As a result of this action John can get on with enjoying his busy and active retirement. He has the reassurance that if future care is required, it will be organised for him.

James Bruce is a senior financial planner at Corporate and Personal Planning, fee-charging independent financial advisers in Colchester, Essex (01206 853888).

WILL BANKS LEND TO BUDDING ROCK STARS?

It all but impossible to produce the formal business plans other documents banks will demand with any loan application.

We put forward the case of a small band which has built up a loyal local following and now needs to borrow a few thousand pounds to record,

press and package their own CD for sale at future concerts. How would the high street banks react to their request for a small business loan?

NatWest says: "We would view the band as a small business, just as we would the corner shop. The things

we would look at are their experience to date, what sort of income they've been getting and whether they had any collateral."

Rather than offering the band a business loan, NatWest might encourage the members to take a personal loan or borrow on

Paul Slade

We are not used to thinking of rock and pop bands as small businesses but, as the new scheme acknowledges that is just what they are.

Like any such business, a fledgling band must establish a customer base, advertise its wares, and keep the money coming in.

But its line of work makes

Not all advice is good advice

They may be 'best buys' to some independent advisers, but they could be a bad deal for you. By James Moore

How independent is independent financial advice? With the creation in 1986 of the Savings and Investments Board, now the Financial Services Authority, financial advisers were forced to tie to one company or choose to become independent, recommending products to their clients from the whole market. But consumer groups and MPs are growing concerned about just how independent some advice is.

Bradford & Bingley Building Society is the biggest high-street organisation in the field, with around 400 independent financial advisers (IFAs). But the 'best buy' lists which the society's advisers use to select products for their clients have been criticised for being too restrictive, specifying a limited number of providers for each product area. In the case of personal pensions, just six are listed.

Its IFAs' choices could be said to be limited further by so-called 'preferred' or 'lead' providers - an even more restricted number of companies or products which advisers are meant to use. Leaked B&B documents containing instructions to its IFAs state: 'The recommendation of lead products is mandatory except where they do not meet the suitability criteria. Preferred products should also be recommended when they meet suitability criteria but this is not mandatory.' However, if an adviser does not recommend a preferred product for any reason other than suitability, then the reasons for the choice must be fully documented. 'One of these "preferred" or "lead" products is the society's own Premier Choice PEP.'

Bradford & Bingley's chief executive, Christopher Rodrigues, recently sparked controversy by calling for advisers to be able to enter into a 'multi-tied' arrangement - where they would have links with just four or five providers - for some low-cost standardised products, such as the Government's new Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) and stakeholder pensions.

A spokesman for the society says this is Mr Rodrigues' own opinion. 'Whether his personal views reach

to being official views is another matter,' he adds.

The Consumers' Association is concerned about the use of panels and has tried to conduct research, but with little success.

Its senior money researcher, Philip Telford, questions the society's policy and the use of panels in general. 'We have found it pretty impossible to get hold of these lists. If I was going to see an independent financial adviser I would expect them to look across the whole market. I am very concerned. The number of products they are recommending seems restrictive. You would seem to be steered towards a small group of lead or preferred products rather than having one recommended to suit your circumstances at any particular time.'

Bradford & Bingley's spokesman says: 'All our panels are independently drawn up by independent actuaries. They fairly reflect the best available providers and products at any one time. They are constantly reviewed and updated.'

Ken Raynor, the society's investment market manager, is responsible for its PEP and unit trust panels. The B&B PEP works by outsourcing to a third-party fund manager. Mr Raynor says: 'We have a lead or preferred provider on the PEP panel, which is invested in the Schroder Enterprise Fund. We relook at this every six months. You could say we are focusing on one product but in reality it doesn't work that simply.'

He adds that if a client already has a large holding in this fund the adviser will recommend another PEP. They have a choice of 42 funds.

But even other independent financial advisers are wary of this approach. For example, DBS, the largest network of IFAs, has a much wider unit trust panel, featuring more than 200 funds.

Andrew Bedford, sales and marketing director at the Financial Options network of 250 advisers, says his company does not like panels. 'We don't use [them] because of their restrictive nature. So many people's circumstances are so vastly different that a good panel would be so large it would be unworkable,' he says.



Some advisers must toe the company line, others can recommend any product. A third group must use a 'best buy' list drawn up by their bosses

Tom Pilston

HOW TO FIND A GOOD ADVISER

Head press in recent years. They were implicated, for instance, in the scandal over mass mis-selling of personal pensions. On the other hand, good advisers can be worth their weight in gold.

By law, they can be either tied, advising on only one company's products, or independent, choosing products for their clients from the whole market. Here is a brief guide to the different types.

COMPANY REPS: Directly linked to one company. Examples: Prudential, Allied

Dunbar. Pros: Thorough knowledge of their company's products. Cons: Pressure to meet sales targets can lead to improper advice. Appalling record in pension mis-selling, variable in clearing it up. Can only advise on one company's products.

TIED AGENTS: Contractually tied to one company but not directly linked. Can range from building societies to one-man bands.

commisions to advisers. Poor pension mis-selling record, but in most cases quick to clear up.

NATIONAL FIRMS: Large companies, often employing hundreds of IFAs. Examples: Hogg Robinson, Bradford & Bingley.

IFAs: As for national firms, above. Members are usually small firms running their own businesses and have close personal contact with clients.

OTHER IFAs: Huge variety, ranging from single practitioners to firms with up to 20 advisers.

Pros: The personal touch. Rarely use best-buy lists. **Cons:** Some argue that they lack the resources of bigger players.

Lastly, check whether your adviser has passed the AFPC or PIC exams, the profession's recognised qualifications.

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Shop around for financial services and save thousands. Rachel Fixsen reports in the last of a series on making the most of your money

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DECIDING TO take out a pension plan or investment is only the start. There are thousands of financial products on the market and choosing which one to buy can be confusing. Some people close their eyes and pick one at random, but researching your options is important.

Falling to shop around can cost you dear. When taking out a mortgage people do tend to compare deals offered by different institutions, but many take the first investment, life insurance or pension they come across, according to research by the Consumers' Association (CA).

Mick McAleer, senior researcher at the CA, says: 'Most people don't shop around because they consider financial services companies to be necessary evils - they think they'll get just as bad a deal somewhere else.'

But in research conducted last year the CA compared two sets of customers. The first simply bought financial services from High Street providers without comparing, while the second shopped around for better deals.

The study found that, in most cases, a family buying a basket of products such as a mortgage, Tessa, personal pension and life assurance would have been £5,000 better off after five years if they had shopped around for better deals.

Research is particularly important when buying life assurance. You can easily end up tying yourself in for 25 years, with heavy penalties if you withdraw early.

The difference between a good value product and a poor value one can be huge, especially with a long-term investment. For instance, the charges levied by personal pension plan providers vary so much that if you choose an expensive one, you could end up with 20 per cent less money in retirement.

Where do you start? Spe-

cialist publications and personal finance pages in the weekend newspapers are a good place to arm yourself with basic knowledge about the market. The *Independent* and the *Financial Times* on Sunday have money pages containing advice and recommendations.

MoneyFacts is a monthly publication which has a wealth of information on savings, bank accounts and credit cards. *Life & Pensions MoneyFacts*, its sister publication, contains performance data and product information for a range of investments.

Before putting money away into your faithful old building society account, take a look at the rate of interest it pays. You may be surprised at the vast difference between this and the interest offered by a newer account being actively marketed by another institution.

For instance, a Lloyd's Bank flexible savings account gives you just 3.4 per cent gross interest a year if you have a balance of £500, while Scottish Widows Bank pays 7 per cent on the same balance with its instant access telephone and postal access account.

Judging how good returns are likely to be from a more complex investment such as a unit trust is more difficult. The small print in investment advertisements constantly reminds us that past performance is no guarantee of future returns. But performance tables are, nevertheless, a good place to start.

Janice Thomson, of independent financial advisers Chelsea Financial Services, says: 'It's really all you've got to go by. There's no guarantee, but one would assume that something that has good past performance has a better chance.'

With stock market investments, look at performance over the past five and ten-year periods, as equities investments are unsuitable for short lengths of time. Check fees and charges levied by the provider, as these can eat into the returns.

Using an independent financial adviser (IFA) is a good idea if you have an important investment decision to make, for instance taking out a pension. IFAs have the resources and expertise to know what is available - and you might be able to sue them if they make a bad choice.

They are legally required to recommend the most suitable product for you.

The best way to find a reputable adviser is by recommendation from a friend. If that isn't an option for you, the phone services listed will help you track one down.

The best advice is given by financial advisers who work on a fee basis rather than taking commission out of the product they sell you, according to CA research. But many people balk at the idea of paying fees to an IFA, and commission taken out of the product they buy seems less painful.

When buying through an IFA who takes commission, don't be afraid to negotiate, says Janice Thomson. She says: 'If it's a product that is not all that complicated, ask whether there is any room for manoeuvre on it.'

Whatever financial product you buy, it is important to keep it under review. Your circumstances may change and a safer investment may be more suitable or a new product might come onto the market which gives a better return.

USEFUL NUMBERS

MoneyFacts: 01603 476747. Chelsea Financial Services: 0171 351 6022.

Independent Financial Advisers Promotion on 0117 971 4177 will give you addresses of three IFAs in your area. *Money Management* magazine has a list of fee-based advisers. Call 0117 976 9444 for a list of the six nearest to you. The Solicitors for Independent Financial Advice has a helpline, call 01372 721172.



The correct adviser is vital to steer you to the correct decision in the pensions market

Peter MacDiarmid

Widows Bank pays 7 per cent on the same balance with its instant access telephone and postal access account.

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Gossip is fun, and does have its uses. But newcomers to the office should be careful whose company they keep. By Katie Hilpern

Careless talk can cost jobs

IT'S THE first week of your new job and you barely know the post-boy from the MD. Suddenly, however, a juicy piece of gossip starts tongues wagging and, within minutes, the darkest secrets of the entire office appear to have been revealed to you. Julie, it seems, is a real back-stabber. Tim is absurdly high-minded: the unassuming looking chap in the corner whose name has escaped you is rumoured to have a dreadful temper; and so on.

But as you make a mental note of every colleague's personality type, you should consider how you yourself are being sized up. Since you are a fresh recruit, this is important. After all, you don't want to appear to be a killjoy. Indeed, if you keep too quiet and stony-faced, you may even be suspected to be a snitch. But, at the same time, you ought to be aware that being seen to indulge in gossip is early in your career has its downside.

Your superiors may think you're easily led and your colleagues may frown on you for not sticking to the principle that applies to companies and families alike: fully fledged members can run them down, but woe betide anyone else who does so.

So, how do you strike a balance? According to Judi James - who trains new recruits in the working environment - this is no trivial matter, and it is of particular importance to employees fresh out of education.

"Graduates [or school-leavers] who are new to office life tend to feel as though they are starting at a new school, because that's what they're used to. In a new school, a great deal of immediate hearsay and slander goes a long way in resolving the fact

that everyone is unaccustomed to everyone else. Then, as time goes on, it all gets forgotten.

"But, in an office, the chances are that everyone already knows each other, and if you walk in and back the wrong horse it can be extremely detrimental to your career and working relationships."

Furthermore, claims Angela Baron, policy adviser for the Institute for Personnel and Development, being indiscreet about colleagues will imply to a manager that you are also indiscreet about the company.

"Any good company should not even have a grapevine," she asserts.

But Cary Cooper, professor of occupational psychology at University of Manchester Institute of Technology, disagrees. Gossip can be useful in circulating ideas indirectly. If you are new to a company, you may be

too shy to approach the boss about a wacky idea. Instead, you can spread it about as a rumour to get some initial feedback."

In addition, he says, it's a good way of comparing notes. "If your boss is coming on to you in his office, you may find out through gossiping with others that you are not the only victim. Then you can do something about it."

Steve Stern of the Industrial Society - which will soon be publishing a book on office dilemmas - believes that hearsay can be effective if you have had suffered misfortune. "If, say, your partner dies, it is doubtful that you'll want to make an announcement about it. But by telling the right people, you know you won't have to.

"The same can apply if you've made a mistake at work that can't be kept secret."

Is the aim, then, to make sure your gossip focuses only on specific issues? When it comes to innovative ideas and any negative personal experiences you may have had, the answer would seem to be Yes. Even rumours about potential disasters should be considered grist for the rumour mill, claims Cooper. "You may hear that the company is downsizing, and that there are going to be redundancies."

"Gossip like this can spread fast and force bosses into a situation where they have to let you know whether it is the truth or not."

But what about that oldest form of gossip: back-stabbing? Can office workers - especially new recruits - hope to avoid dishing the dirt on their colleagues?

"That may be the ideal, but it is unrealistic," claims Cooper. "All gossip should be accepted as part and parcel of human nature in any environment. My advice is obvious when it comes to slander: try not to get involved, but accept that it goes on."

This is the area where graduates are most likely to come unstuck, warns James.

"You can find yourself part of slanderous gossip just by listening in. Even if you don't contribute anything to the conversation, the fact that you are looking like a dog staring at a biscuit, or laughing like a clown, means you're already involved."

"The best thing is to acquire the type of smile that most managers have perfected - very subtle, while at the same time nodding down at your chest. That way, you can be diplomatic, yet hear everything. After all, there's no doubt that knowledge can be power."

HOW TO PREVENT GOSSIP RUINING YOUR CAREER

Indulge in office gossip only when:

■ You want to discover the truth about something that affects you directly.

■ You want to spread around information without making a formal announcement.

■ You know for sure that no one is going to suffer unduly as a result.

Never indulge in office gossip when:

■ You know you are doing it just as a way of brightening up an otherwise dull day.

■ It might unfairly damage someone's reputation.

■ You're not sure who's who in the office.



If the boss is coming on to you, you may find out through gossip that you are not the only one

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New research says that workplace intimidation doesn't just upset the staff - it cuts the boss's profits as well. By Roger Trapp

Keeping the work bully at bay



TEN YEARS after the problem first came to public attention, everybody is familiar with the way that bullies can ruin workplaces with their behaviour. When people talk about bullying they are usually referring to obviously intimidating acts, such as shouting, threats and physical abuse. But recent research from the United States suggests that much lesser acts can have a significant damaging effect.

None of the incidents at the core of the study carried out by researchers at the University of North Carolina's business school involved physical aggression or violence. Indeed, many were relatively mild and might even have been taken as ambiguous. They included accusations about lack of knowledge, undermining credibility in front of others and sending demeaning notes. Yet they often had a serious consequence.

According to the responses of 775 people who had been the subject of incivility at work, 53 per cent lost work time worrying about the incident or future dealings, 46 per cent contemplated changing jobs to avoid the instigator (with 12 per cent actually doing so), 37 per cent believed that their commitment to the organisation declined, 28 per cent lost work time avoiding the instigator, 22 per cent reduced their effort at work and 10 per cent decreased the amount of time they spent at work.

But there were potential "spillover" effects beyond these. Nearly everyone who had been a target of this sort of behaviour described their experiences to others. Most talked with peers at work or family members, half spoke to workplace superiors and friends outside work and about a fifth described what had occurred to subordinates.

Moreover, only a quarter of targets were satisfied with the way the organisation handled things. Con-

sequently, more than a third said that their commitment to their organisations had declined.

According to Christine Pearson, a management professor at the Kenan-Flagler business school, who presented the findings to a recent

gathering of business executives, the potential costs of rude, disrespectful encounters deserve attention from management. Leaders need to be aware that this sort of behaviour occurs, and that instigators may operate from positions of power,

and with cunning. Prof Pearson thought it was particularly significant that this was not an issue confined to women; targets were divided equally between the sexes.

While some organisations might characterise those who complained

of such actions as "thin-skinned" individuals, unsuited to the cut and thrust of the modern workplace, Prof Pearson believes that others will be prompted to introduce codes of conduct. Pointing out that the researchers had not found that the in-

cidents had occurred against particularly turbulent backgrounds that might increase stress among instigators of incivility, Prof Pearson said that the general changes in corporate life could be a factor in the high number of incidents. "There's

no question that the individual impact of stress in general is perceived as being higher than before. This whole idea of 'mean and lean' has turned inward," she said, adding that the more co-operative environments of the past had been replaced by more competitive atmospheres.

The researchers recommend five key responses to such behaviour:

- Clarify expectations regarding interpersonal dealings and establish explicit codes of conduct.
- Watch closely for patterns of behaviour.
- Document deviant incidents and take account of inappropriate behaviour in evaluations.
- Deny instigators further influence over people.
- Mandate (rather than recommend) counselling, if it is deemed necessary.

More generally, employers are urged to take steps in the "employment life circle" to help minimise such episodes. These include:

- When recruiting and selecting people, checking their references carefully, assuring the fit of individuals with organisational and workplace cultures and considering the people skills that might be required of applicants.
- When inducting or training people, establishing expectations about behaviour; providing training for dealing with such issues as harassment as well as in stress management and conflict resolution.
- At evaluation time, documenting behaviour that does not meet expectations, providing corrective feedback to instigators regardless of their seniority or clout and providing opportunities for input by subordinates or peers.
- Finally, ensuring that a third party is present if an instigator is being fired, and not merely transferring people who should be fired.

HOW TO HAVE A HAPPY, AND PROFITABLE, OFFICE

IT IS 10 years since freelance journalist and broadcaster Andrea Adams (pictured right) undertook the first research into workplace bullying.

Three years of work on the subject produced two BBC Radio 4 documentaries, a series of groundbreaking articles in *The Independent* in 1991 and, following tremendous public response, a book on the phenomenon written with Neil Crawford: *Bullying at*

Work: How to Confront and Overcome It (Virago, £9.99).

Adams died in 1995, but the Andrea Adams Trust has since been established as the UK's first and only workplace bullying charity. The trust has just launched a consultancy to advise companies on creating a healthy and profitable working environment.

It has also issued a list of key points of advice for people who are being bullied at work:

- Keep a factual log of all incidents.
- Get witnesses to bullying incidents.
- Avoid being alone with a bully.
- Find out if others are being bullied/will support you.
- Does your job description match your responsibilities?
- Inform your manager, union representative or personnel officer.
- Seek advice of representative.
- Learn of options available to you.

The first international conference on workplace bullying will take place on Wednesday 1 July at Staffordshire University. For information on the conference, contact Deborah Wilne on 01785 353 702. The Andrea Adams Trust: 01273 704 901



Karen and Ken at Capitol Group

Glynne Griffiths

Minding the man who minds the minders

I WORK FOR

KAREN DRAKE IS PA TO KEN DULIEU, CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY FIRM CAPITOL GROUP

BEFORE I came to work for Ken, I thought that I had moved out of secretarial work for good. But when my agency rang to tell me they had a job for a leading security company, I got talked into going to the interview.

I clicked immediately with Ken and his wife Jeannette, who is also a director of the company. Although the work sounded dynamic and involved, what really appealed to me was the idea of working for Ken himself - the fact that the industry is exciting is simply a bonus. Ken is very charismatic and energetic - he worked first as a policeman and then as a private investigator, but by the time I joined the company 19 months ago he had over 2,000 employees.

Ken is a hands-on executive. He

likes to keep in close contact with our clients and wants me to get to know them so that they will take me into their confidence when he isn't there. Because the business is of such a sensitive nature, the clients need to know that they can pick up a phone for back-up support at any time of the day or night, and I am often the first point of contact.

We are there to take the worry away and have guards on hand to deal with anything from a bomb threat to a threat of physical violence.

One of my first encounters with the undercover side of the business was when I walked into a meeting and saw myself on a television set placed on the table. I looked around for the cameras, but couldn't find it because it was

hidden in a tie pin. There have been other entertaining moments, such as the time I got a phone call from the police asking me to identify two of our agents. They had been following a target on surveillance and had traced him to the edge of a military base which, being an IRA target, was under police surveillance itself - the agents were arrested under suspicion of being terrorists.

But the most absurd case of all was when an agent's cover was blown by the very man who employed him to work under cover within a casino as part of a fraud investigation. The client saw our agent working in the casino, recognised him, but forgot who he was and asked him what he was doing there!

I'm not an office-based PA - one moment I may be working on location for a highly confidential job and the next I will be putting oil into Ken's motorcycle engine. We work a lot in his car and the pace is so frantic that sometimes both our mobiles and the car phone are ringing simultaneously. I have even been known to walk up and down the poolside taking down dictation whilst Ken does his lengths.

We are both a bit psychic. I am forever finishing Ken's sentences or answering his questions before he asks them. I think I have to be a bit of a Rotter to do this job. When an old boss of mine met Ken he asked, "So what's it like to have Karen as your boss?" But Ken's family have adopted me and Ken often refers to me as his daughter which can confuse the clients.

People are always fascinated by my job and usually connect it with the spy business or MI6. But when questioned I always remain vague about the covert side because, of course, working for Britain's most secretive company means most of your job has to remain top secret.

INTERVIEW BY KATIE SAMPSON

'Allo darlin', let me tell you a love story...



THE TEMP

An hour later, it was all round the office. The three other PAs were giving me the evil eye. Bradley, one of my boss's team, came over with some figures.

"See you're making friends, then," he said. I don't think he meant it nicely.

"A novel," he says. "Maybe a screenplay. Set in the language schools around Brighton during the Gulf war. Young bloke East End boy looking for something more, working down there, meets Iraqi girl. Fall in love, eat candy floss, stay out all night. But her family don't approve of him and that."

"So what happens in the end?" I ask, having sussed that this is in some way autobiographical. "War ends, she goes to America. They never see each

other again. I think she married a doctor in California."

I try to let him down gently. "Look, it sounds like an excellent story, but I think to be honest it's not my bag. I'm trying to work on stuff of my own at the moment."

Jeff gets sulky. "Well, excuse me. Just thought I could help you out of a hole. Turn round a nice little profit for both of us. Thought I was doing you a favour. Still, if you feel like that..."

We drain our half-pints of bitter, walk back to the office in silence. But he walks me back to my desk, says goodbye nicely. You can cut the atmosphere with a knife.

Andrea and Mandy walk past my desk talking in loud voices about people getting above their stations.

Bradley comes back, waggles an eyebrow. "Nice lunch?" he asks, as though we've been locked in a hotel room somewhere.

"Yes, thanks," I say. "You're certainly a fast worker."

"What?"

"Mates with management? After a job, or something else?"

"I lose my lid. 'Tell me,' I say. 'What's my name?'"

"What?"

"What's my name?"

He looks lost, then shrugs. "Dunno."

"No, you don't, do you? None of you do. You've not made the first effort to give me the time of day since I got here, but the minute someone does, you're all over me like a swarm of wasps. Well, forget it. I don't give a damn what you think. Why should I?"

It's not like you've got any manners."

Bradley starts back. "Blimey," he says. "I was only having a joke, love."

No doubt about it. I need a holiday.

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THE INDEPENDENT

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e 3?

NEW FILMS

CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Director: Brad Silberling
Starring: Nicolas Cage, Meg Ryan, Dennis Franz
Now that plans for Tim Burton's stab at a Superman film have been indefinitely postponed, it looks like Nicolas Cage will be denied the chance to wear his underpants outside his trouser. For the time being, his role in *City of Angels* will provide some consolation.

Although the picture claims Wim Wenders' *Wings of Desire* as its progenitor, the real inspiration for the film's pivotal dramatic dilemma is in a far less prestigious source. When Seth, the angel played by Cage, puzzles over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal woman (Meg Ryan), he's following in the footsteps of the Man of Steel, who turned in all that saving-the-world poppycock for Lois Lane in *Superman II*. It always struck me that *Wings of Desire* would have been much more tolerable as a Hollywood tearjerker than a sombre European art movie. Accordingly, *City of Angels* is silly in the way that only serious-minded movies can be. The romance between Cage and Ryan is startlingly limp, and it's left to the director Brad Silberling, to conjure some magic from the chaos of Los Angeles.

DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)

Director: Finn Taylor
Starring: David Arquette
Here's a recipe for disaster. Take an upright suicidal loser preparing to throw himself off a bridge. Add a junkie with a month to live and a handful of hedonistic fantasies that he's determined to realise on his way to the grave. Give them a few weeks on the road together, stir in a sprinkling of zany supporting characters and leave to simmer until the inevitable tearful farewell. Serve with sick-bag at the ready. Perhaps it's the realisation that *Dream with the Fishes* could so easily have been a nightmare that makes its success seem refreshing and deserved. A movie about two young men learning to live in the shadow of death has no right being witty.

Ryan Gilbey

effervescent and adventurous, but *Dream with the Fishes* is all of these things.

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)

Director: Stephen Kay
Starring: Thomas Jane, Keisha Reeves
A mannered and vacuous dip into the life of the Beat poet Neal Cassady, played by Thomas Jane, who believes that Cassady was a charmer, but portrays him as an egotistical sixth-former. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting, but the film just amounts to the same old Beat Generation clichés: blue smoke, white vests and black coffee, maan.

SAVIOR (18)

Director: Peter Antonijevic
Starring: Dennis Quaid, Nastassja Kinski
There are also plenty of unexpected giggles in *Savior*, though given that the film is set in war-torn Bosnia, we should assume that they are mostly unintentional. In a bizarre pre-credits sequence, Dennis Quaid loses his wife (Nastassja Kinski) and son in a Paris bomb blast, then avenges their death by strolling into a mosque and gunning down a row of Muslims at prayer. I suspect that the editor dozed off at his Steinbeck, because the next thing you know, Quaid is a hired gun for the Serbs, shaking his head at various atrocities and taking a woman and her newborn daughter under his wing. When he sighs "This war sucks, man," you'd better cherish the line – it's the film's only shot at characterisation or political commentary.

POINT BLANK (15)

Director: John Boorman
Starring: Lee Marvin, Angie Dickinson, Keenan Wynn, James B Sikking
Re-release of John Boorman's finest film, a chilly and chilling existential thriller with Lee Marvin as the gangster Walker, his soul emptied but his mind full of revenge.

Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

AFTERSHOCK (15)

Two couples – fiftysomethings Nick Nolte and Julie Christie, and twentysomethings Lela Flynn Boyle and Jonny Lee Miller – swap partners and way aphorisms in the latest urbane romantic comedy from writer-director Alan Rudolph.

THE APOSTLE (12)

Director Robert Duvall plunges into the role of a preacher obsessed with God in a manner that is both terrifying and embracing.

THE BIG SWAP (18)

Dark, unconvincing and preachy drama played out against Sunday supplement locations

THE BUTCHER BOY (15)

Neil Jordan's film of Patrick McCabe's blackly comic novel about a precocious 12-year-old in 1960s Ireland has a macabre thrill that is seductive. Jordan's depiction of the world, seen through the eyes of Francie (Bamou Owens), is so rich and unsparring that it pulls you in in the manner of a Grimm fairytale.

DAD SAVAGE (18)

Patrick Stewart sheds his Star Trek image to play a turgidly gung-ho Country & Western-obsessed East Anglian crime boss in this stab at re-inventing the British thriller.

DARK CITY (15)

Alfred Hitchcock returns with another over-the-top urban nightmare. Amnesiac suspected serial-killer Rufus Sewell is pursued by our inspector William Hurt, syringe-wielding psychiatrist Kiefer Sutherland and Richard O'Brien as one of a sinister breed of aliens known as "The Strangers".

DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (18)

Woody Allen's most honest and intelligent film in more than a decade.

FISTS IN THE POCKET (NC)

A new print of Marco Bellocchio's 1965 classic.

THE GENERAL (15)

John Boorman's best film in two decades charts the career of Dublin gangster Martin Cahill, who runs rings round the Gardai with a series of heists before the IRA put him out of business in 1994.

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)

A jaunty if unoriginal take on the rites-of-passage genre set in Leicester at the start of the 1970s. The lively script is complimented by the performance of young actress Joanna Ward who sparkles in the film's heroine.

THE GRASS HARP (PG)

An adaptation of Capote's novel about lives and loves in a southern American town in the 1940s. A fine cast has been assembled to little effect. Starring Jack Lemmon, Walter Matthau, Sissy Spacek, Piper Laurie and Edward Furlong.

THE HANGING GARDEN (15)

Gay hero, Sweet William, returns home for the wedding of his sister (Kerry Fox), who is marrying the boy that William once had a crush on, in this disarming drama.

LIVE FLESH (18)

A novel by Ruth Rendell is the unlikely origin of Pedro Almodóvar's most accomplished film to date, though the action has been shifted to Madrid and crammed with sexual symbolism so potent it leaves you reeling.

LOLITA (18)

Adrian Lyne's remake of Kubrick's stylish Nabokov adaptation lacks spirit and adventure, starring Jeremy Irons and Dominique Swain.

LOVE ETC (15)

This meandering French drama stars Charlotte Gainsbourg as a woman torn between her husband and his best friend.

THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS (U)

A welcome re-release for Orson Welles' 1942 masterpiece about a wealthy family whose conflicting emotions tear them apart.

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ABC (0870-9020424) BR: Walthamstow Central The Fall Monty 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Replacement Killers 5.55pm Soul Food 2pm, 5.30pm The Wedding Singer 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252852) BR: Walton on Thames City Of Angels 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.25pm The Wedding Singer 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham Soul Food 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm The Wedding Singer 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

WILLESDEN
BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) BR: Willested Green Jackie Brown 3.30pm, 9.15pm

WOOD GREEN
NEW CURRY WOOD GREEN (0181-347 6664) BR: Timpole Lane Achasak 5pm Dilwara Dhanjali Le Jayenge 8pm Duplicate 2pm

WOODFORD
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WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 50431) BR: Woolwich Arsenal City Of Angels 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm The Fall Monty 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CINEMA REPORT

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE AT THE INSTITUT FRANCAIS Queensberry Place SW7 (0171-838 2144) La Bourse British Premiere (NC) 7.30pm

EVERYMAN Holbysky Vale NW3 (0171-435 1525) Staff Upper Lips (15) 8pm Bad Boy Buddy (18) 1.15pm, 5.05pm & Gummo 3.20pm, 7.10pm

ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647) Spiritual Voices Part 2 (NC) 5.30pm, 8.30pm Chilling Experience (12) 5pm, 7pm Pallen Angels (18) 9pm

THE LUX Holton Square SW1 (0171-684 0201) WR - Mysteries D1 The Organism (18) 6.30pm Thermoc (18) 8.30pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274) Point Blank (18) 2.30pm, 6.30pm King Of The Hill (12) 6.15pm Aviation Highlights: Museum Special Event (NC) 7.30pm I Went Down (15) 8.30pm The Jackal (18) 8.40pm

PEPSI IMAX The Tropicana, Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153) Everest (U) 1.15pm, 1.20pm, 3.25pm, 5.30pm, 7.35pm, 9.40pm Across The Sea Of Time (18) 4.30pm The Wedding (3-D) (U) 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm, 10.40pm

PHOENIX High Road N2 (0181-883 2233) Afterglow (15) 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Sliding Doors (15) 3.40pm, 8.55pm The Apostle (12) 12.40pm, 6pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-837 8181) Ma Vie En Rose (12) 1.30pm Last Tango In Paris (18) 3.30pm The Man In The Iron Mask (12) 6.20pm The Reindeer (15) 8.55pm

RIO Kingstand High Street EB (0171-254 6677) Soul Food (15) 3.45pm, 6.15pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0181-741 2255) The American Fried (15) 6.15pm & The End Of Violence 8.40pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Middx (0181-568 1176) Afterglow (15) 9pm Sues Who's Coming To Dinner? (NC) 2pm Mousehole (PG) 4.45pm Oscar And Lucinda (15) 6.30pm

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-622621) My Sex The Fanatic (15) 6.45pm Western (16) 4pm, 8.45pm

BRISTOL
WATERSHED (017-925 3845) Afterglow (15) 6pm, 8.25pm The Taste Of Cherry (PG) 6.05pm, 8.15pm

THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week running. Times include intervals. ● — Seats at all prices □ — Seats at some prices ○ — Returns only. Matinees — [1]; Sun [3]; Tue, [4]; Wed, [5]; Thu, [6]; Fri, [7]; Sat

CARTIFF CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (0122-395650) Alice (12) 7.30pm The Scarlet Pimpernel (12) 2.30pm, 6pm Welsh Animation: Independent Welsh Animation Shorts (NC) 7.30pm

IPSWICH IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) Afterglow (15) 8.30pm Some Prefer Cake (NC) 6pm Washington Square (PG) 6.15pm

NORWICH NORWICH CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Augusta (NC) 8.15pm The Big Lebowski (18) 2.30pm TwentyFourSeven (15) 5.45pm

PLYMOUTH ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) Prisoner Of The Mountains (15) 8pm

**CINEMA
COUNTRYWIDE**

BATH
ABC CINEMA (01225-461730) City Of Angels (12)

LITTLE THEATRE (01225-468822) The Real Roade (15); The General (15)

ROBINS CINEMA (01225-461506) Sliding Doors (15); The Fall Monty (15); The Wedding Singer (12)

BRISTOL
ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191) Some Like It Hot (U), Live Flesh (18); Great Expectations (15)

BRISTOL CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (01275-831099) Australia (U); Blues Brothers 2000 (PG); Mouse-Hunt (PG); Sliding Doors (15); The Replacement Killers (18); Titanic (15); Dark City (15); The Wings Of The Dove (15); The Wedding Singer (12); Mrs Brown (PG); Wishmaster (18); The Devil's Own (12); Star Kid (PG); The Fall Monty (15); Savior (18); Baby (U); Deep Impact (12); Paws (PG); Screen 2 (18); The Aquatic (12); Samsons Dean Guri; Gobino; Stig (PG); A Thousand Acres (15)

CHICAGO Ruth Henshall stars; Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0722) Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £16.25/£13.50 (inc book- ing fee), 130 mins.

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THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252852) BR: Walton on Thames City Of Angels 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.25pm The Wedding Singer 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm

UXBRIDGE
ODEON (01895-813139) BR: Uxbridge City Of Angels 1.30pm, 5.10pm, 8.30pm The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

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WELL HALL
CINEMA REPORT

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Classic tale of love and confusion set in the fairy kingdom. Open Air Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431/0171-3953) ● Baker Street, in rep today 2.30pm & 8pm, ends 5 Sep, £8-£20.

CARTIFF CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (0122-395650) Alice (12) 7.30pm The Scarlet Pimpernel (12) 2.30pm, 6pm Welsh Animation: Independent Welsh Animation Shorts (NC) 7.30pm

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WEDNESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1

6.30 Kevin Greer and Zoe Ball
9.00 Simon Mayo, 12.00 Jo Whalley, 2.00 Mark Radcliffe, 4.00 Dave Pearce, 6.30 Steve Lamacq, the Evening Session, 8.30 Movie Update with Mark Kermode, 8.40 John Peel, 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs, 1.00 Clive Warren, 4.00 - 6.30 Chris Moyles.

RADIO 2

(88.902MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce, 12.00 Jimmy Young, 2.00 Ed Stewart, 5.05 Johnnie Walker, 7.00 Nick Barracough, 8.00 Mike Harding, 9.00 The Andy Peebles Soul Show, 10.00 Johnnie Walker, 10.30 Richard Allinson, 12.05 Jeff Owen, 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3

(90.2-92.4MHz FM)

6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week: C P E Bach.
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Choral Evensong.
5.00 In Tune.
7.25 Performance on 3: Dr Ox's Experiment, English National Opera's world premiere production of the new opera by Gavin Bryars, staged by Canadian film director Atom Egoyan. The story is a satirical version by Blake Morrison of a fantastic tale by Jules Verne. With Bonaventura Botrone, tenor (D Ox) and Riccardi Simonetti, baritone (Ygene). Chorus and Orchestra of English National Opera/James Holmes, Act 1. See *Pick of the Day*.
8.30 Interval: Natalie Wihen talks to Gavin Bryars, Blake Morrison and Atom Egoyan about the preparations for 'Dr Ox's Experiment'.
8.50 Dr Ox's Experiment, Act 2.
10.15 Postscript: The Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway, 3: The Snows of Kilimanjaro. Reader Ron Berglas. Abridged by John Hartley.
10.45 Night Waves. As the British Museum launches its first exhibition

PICK OF THE DAY

GAVIN BRYARS' beautifully styled, though rather long-winded, rendition of Jules Verne's black comedy, *Dr Ox's Experiment* (7.25pm B3), comes live from the English National Opera, with an enchanting libretto by Blake Morrison. It tells the story of a mad scientist who conducts a scientific experiment on a sleepy town in Flanders, with catastrophic results. The distinguished raconteur Frank Muir is recalled with

touching affection by his co-writer Denis Norden (right) in a Kentish Lad Remembered (11.30am R4), which includes some rib-tickling excerpts from their radio series *Take it from Here*. *Nightwaves* (10.45pm R3) looks at the uneasy issues surrounding the display of indigenous collections abroad as the British Museum launches its first exhibition devoted to Maori art.

FIONA STURGES

devoted to the culture and arts of the Maori people of New Zealand, Laura Cumming explores the contentious issues surrounding the origins and display of ethnic collections abroad and hears from New Zealand about the work of contemporary Maori artists and writers. Plus first-night reviews from the opening of *How I Learned to Drive* by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel. See *Pick of the Day*.

11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Beethoven, (R).
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4

(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 Midweek.
9.45 Serial: *Intimate Death*.
10.00 NEWS: *Woman's Hour*.
11.00 NEWS: *On Watch*.
11.30 Frank Muir - a Kentish Lad Remembered. See *Pick of the Day*.
12.00 NEWS: *You and Yours*.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Wordy Wise, (R).
2.00 NEWS: *The Archers*.
2.30 Afternoon Play: *Retouching*.
3.00 NEWS: *Gardener's Question Time*.
3.30 Matchmakers.
3.45 The End of the World.
4.00 NEWS: *Case Notes*.
4.30 Thinking Allowed.
5.00 PM.
9.00 Six O'Clock News.
8.30 The Alan Davies Show.

7.00 NEWS: *The Archers*.
7.15 Front Row. Mark Lawson presents the arts show, which tonight features a verdict on a new play by American dramatist David Mamet.

7.45 Under One Roof: *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden*. Sally Wraybore's series is based on the original stories by Michele Hanson. Everything in the garden is not quite as lovely as Gillian and her boyfriend would like, as he sets to work to create an Eden in the suburbs and battles with major resistance from Bernice and Chloe. With Paola Dionisotti and Edna Dore (3/5).

8.00 NEWS: *The Moral Maze*. Michael Buerk and his team of regulars cross-examine 'witnesses' about their views on the moral questions behind one of the week's headlines.
8.45 Maps for the Future. The third of four programmes featuring speeches of inspiration and humour from graduation ceremonies past and present.

9.00 NEWS: *Costing the Earth*. 'Tyres'. Tighter regulations have meant that we change our tyres more frequently than ever, but where do they go? As landfill will no longer be an option, 'Costing the Earth' investigates the possibility of an environmental solution. Presented by Guy Linley-Adams. 9.30 Midweek: Lively conversation with Emma Freud and guests.



FIONA STURGES

10.00 *The World Tonight*.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: *Scarlet and Black* by Stendhal, read by Greg Wise, abridged in ten parts by Michelene Wardor. Julian's ambitions become focussed on the church. He falls in love, but an anonymous letter threatens disaster (3/10).

11.00 *The Way It Is*. Satire, sketches and a hard look behind the week's media events from Sanjeev Bhaskar, Simon Evans, Dave Lamb and Fiona Allen.

11.30 *The Cheese Shop Presents*.
12.00 News.

12.30 *The Late Book: Intimacy*.
12.48 *Shipping Forecast*.
1.00 *As World Service*.

1.30 *World News*.
1.35 *Shipping Forecast*.

1.40 *Inshore Forecast*.

1.45 *Prayer for the Day*.

5.47 - 6.00 *Farming Today*.

12.30 *4 LW* (198kHz)

9.45 - 10.00 *Daily Service*.
12.00 - 12.40 *News Headlines: Shipping Forecast*.
5.54 - 5.57 *Shipping Forecast*.
11.30 - 6.00 *Today in Parliament*.

12.30 *5 LIVE* (93.908kHz MW)

6.00 *The Breakfast Programme*.

9.00 *Nicky Campbell*.

12.00 *The Midday News*.

1.00 *Wimbledon and World Cup*

7.55 World Cup 98. Ian Payne introduces commentary from John Murray, Simon Brotherton and Martin O'Neill in Lens as the final placings are decided in Group D. Plus news of the night's other game, Nigeria v Paraguay, from Jimmy Armfield in Toulouse. Including the National Lottery Draw, 10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Including a late news briefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight and a topical late-night discussion.

1.00 *Up All Night*.
5.00 - 6.00 *Morning Reports*.
CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 *Nick Bailey*, 8.00 *Henry Kelly*, 12.00 *Requests*.
Concerto. 3.00 *Jamie Crichton*, 6.30 *Newshunt*, 7.00 *Smooth Classics* at 9.00. *Evening Concert*.
1.00 *Alan Menken*, 2.00 *Concerto*.
3.00 - 6.00 *Mark Griffiths*.

VIRGIN RADIO (126.1-128.0kHz MW)

7.00 *Chris Evans*, 10.00 *Russ Williams*, 1.00 *Nick Abbott*, 4.00 *Robin Banks*/FM only *Ray Cokes* from 6.45pm, 7.30 *Ray Cokes*.

10.00 *Mark Forrest*, 2.00 *Calm Jones*, 5.00 - 7.00 *Jeremy Clark*.

WORLD SERVICE (198kHz LW)

1.00 *Newdesk*, 1.30 *From Our Own Correspondent*, 1.45 *Britain Today*, 2.00 *Newdesk*, 2.30 *Omnibus*, 3.00 *Newsday*, 3.30 *Meridian (Books)*, 4.00 *World News*, 4.05 *World Business Report*, 4.45 *Sports Roundup*, 4.50 *The World Today* (0430-0700)/*Insight* (SW 725kHz only).

4.45 *Off the Shelf*: Something to Hide, 5.30 *Outlook* (SW 725kHz only).

5.55 - 6.30 *Music Brief* (SW 725kHz only).

TALK RADIO (198kHz)

6.30 *The New Talk Radio*.

Breakfast Show *Kirsty Young* with Bill Overton, 9.00 *Scott Chisholm*.

12.00 *Lorraine Kelly*, 2.00 *Tommy Boyd*, 3.00 *France v Denmark* Live Commentary, 5.00 *Peter Deesley*, 6.00 *Anne Raesbourn*.

9.00 *James Whale*, 1.00 *Ian Collins* and the *Creatures of the Night*, 5.00 - 6.30 *The Early Show* with Bill Overton.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

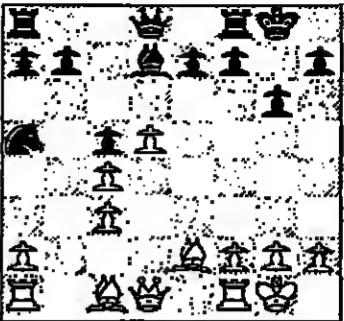
CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

USUALLY WHEN a player oudoes a knight's pawn one square forwards, it is a preparation for developing his bishop on the long diagonal. Sometimes (as in various ...b5 systems in the Queen's Gambit Declined) the primary idea is to support a later advance of the neighbouring bishop's pawn. Often, (as in the King's Indian, where g5 looks forward to both an immediate Bg7 and a later e5 and f5) both ideas are combined.

When Anand played b6 in the game that won him the Frankfurt Chess Classic, however, it was not his bishop or pawns, but his knight he was thinking about. In the diagram position, shortly after the opening, Anand seemed to be suffering for his willingness to part with the black-squared bishop. His attack against the doubled c-pawns is getting nowhere, and he faces a threatened attack with Bb6 followed, perhaps, by such moves as b4, Bb3, Re1 and Qb3.

Anand found the perfect plan: his knight must return to aid the defence, so he played 13...b6! followed by Nb7, Nd6, f6 and Nf7. When the bishop had been driven away from b5, Black gradually took over the initiative. When 24...Bg4 came, with its threat of a rook invasion on e1, White's fell apart with surprising rapidity. An interesting game and a rare knight fianchetto.



White: V Kramnik
Black: V Anand

Five-minute play-off

Frankfurt Chess Classic 1998

English Opening

1 Nf3 c5 20 dxe6

2 c4 Nc6 21 Qxd8 Rxd8

3 Nc3 g5 22 Rad1 Rxd8

4 e3 Bg7 23 Rxd1 g5

5 d4 d6 24 Bc1 Bg4

6 d5 Bxc3+ 25 f3 Bxg3

7 bxc3 Nc5 26 Rfd1 Re1

8 e4 Nf6 27 Bb2 Ne5

9 e5 dxe5 28 Kf2 Rb1

10 Nxe5 0-0 29 h3 b5

11 Be2 Nd7 30 a4 a5

12 Nxd7 Bxd7 31 Ba3 Kf7

13 0-0 b6 32 Rb2 Ra1

14 Bb6 Re8 33 Rb1 Bd1

15 Qd2 Nb7 34 Bb2 Bx3

16 Rfe1 Nd6 35 Bxa3 Bxa4

17 Bf1 f6 36 Bg2 Bc6

18 Bf4 Nf7 37 Bf1 Rd7

19 g3 e5 White resigned

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

SOUTH'S LINE of play in his slam contract on this deal went some way towards improving his chances but it was not quite good enough. There was, in fact, a 100 per cent route to success.

South opened One Club and North forced with Two Spades. Unwilling to rebind his bad suit, in spite of its length, if a slam was in the offering, South temporised with Two No-trumps. He was reassured when North bid Three Clubs, showing that his force had been based on a club fit. Well, South had excellent controls in the red suits and they soon reached Six Clubs against which West led *Q*.

The 3-0 trump break was irritating, but there were still plenty of chances. As you can see, a simple spade finesse would work - like the heart finesse, a 50 per cent chance - but the slightly better play of a ruffing finesse in the suit does not. Instead, declarer drew a second round of trumps, cashed *A*, and ruffed a spade. In this way he would be home if *Q* fell in three and, if it did not, there would still be time to the heart finesse. Nothing behaved, and the slam failed.

Declarer was certainly right to

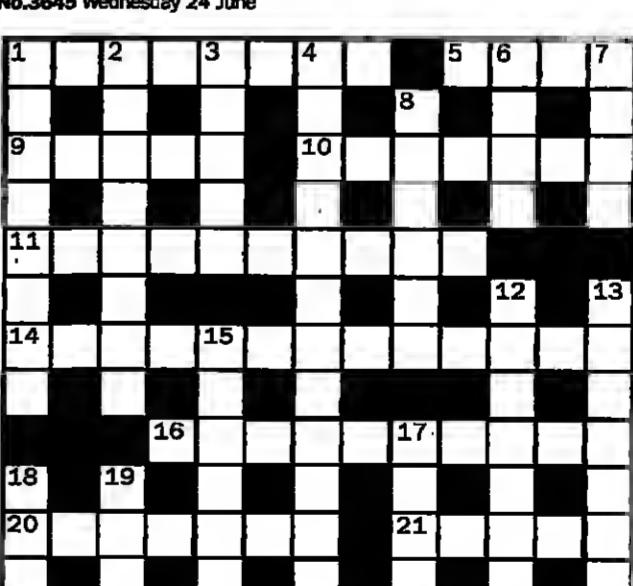
PUZZLE

HOW CAN you turn a SCOTTISH WRITER and A NOVEL into a SCOTTISH writer and his novel?

Yesterday's answer: REMOTE CAPITALS NOTED has the letters of ASTEROID, PLANET, COMET

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3645 Wednesday 24 June



WEDNESDAY TELEVISION

BBC1
BBC2

ITV Carlton
Channel 4

Channel 5

THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

TELEVISION REVIEW

IS SHE INNOCENT? It's hard to imagine that any viewer of Martin Sutcliffe's interview with Louisa Woodward didn't ask themselves, and more than once at that. And, in one respect, the answer was unequivocally "no". Two years of press attention and criminal procedure, two years of being both wronged and wronged, and the unwilling victim, would be a powerful education in public performance for anyone, and as Monday night's *Parade* (BBC1, 8.30pm) showed, Woodward had graduated with honours.

Whatever innocence she had as an 18-year-old has long gone. "The young woman you saw here was self-possessed and articulate, in control of her own emotions - there were none of the nervous tics and giggles I noticed when David Jessel some months ago. This time, that she had learned more about how to handle the ordeal of examination.

This sophistication is not always in her interest - the public who responded sentimentally to the kind of pictures of a hooded child in handcuffs may have recalled a little of the spectacle of an adult at ease with the language of technical defence. "I felt that if I presented a case to at least pose reasonable doubt... that to be believed," she said, a sounder tactic for those who want an anguished cry of denial. She knows this can be a liability - her damnation in the witness box did not satisfy the American taste for emotional display - but she still decides to waver her arguments with her, retinalists, which the prosecution turned in the light with they looked like a flattered confession. It seems

she who has been partly because she who conducted the attractions had been recognised by whoever edited the raw tape - but which had been amplified by an interviewee now familiar with the opinions of her viewers. It worked, but it was the other way, naturally, but I ended up believing her.

Why Men Don't Iron (Channel 4) provided an answer. It did not deliver - indeed, it rendered that vaedictum of "woman are problems while women are problems" almost as if it had.

It's the language of sexism, of sexual differences in brain structure that make a solid case that men are intrinsically lazier than women - albeit when the looking has to be done. The investigation of biological differences between the sexes is always fraught with political spin-offs and Anne Moir's series actually opened with an episode for study in the field.

To do an experiment where you find a difference is not to cross-examine, but it's to demonstrate it. That's what I was trying to do in my conversation with Diane (there are only so many ways you can sit on a two-person sofa).

The consistency of hammer organs in favour of her honesty, I think, does the ambiguity of her remarks to the police no favours, but it questions her, retinalists, which the prosecution turned in the light.

They have an abominable kick-off against Diane (I had to see her latest contribution from us Easter 18, something of a public rehabilitation, as the Earl shares his thoughts on Diana and the transformation of the family pile).

It's the first time I've seen a public rehabilitation, as the Earl shares his thoughts on Diana and the transformation of the family pile.

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